LAARNI: Counter-affidavit in 10 days

Coup charges to be filed today vs Laarni Enriquez

By TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINE National police is set to file today a "complaint of coup d'etat" against former starlet Laarni Enriquez after establishing that her alleged townhouse in Mandaluyong City was used as a staging area in Sunday's mutiny in Makati, a highly reliable source told the INQUIRER.

COUP/ A19

website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, July 31, 2003 ★★ 62 pages / 6 sections / vol. 18 / no. 233 P15

Corpus quits, says crisis far from over

BRIG. GEN. Victor Corpus: There's still deep restiveness in the officers of the AFP.
PDI FILE PHOTO

Intelligence chief says knight's sacrifice needed to save queen

Gloria Time cover girl for 3rd time

By Juliet L.Javellana

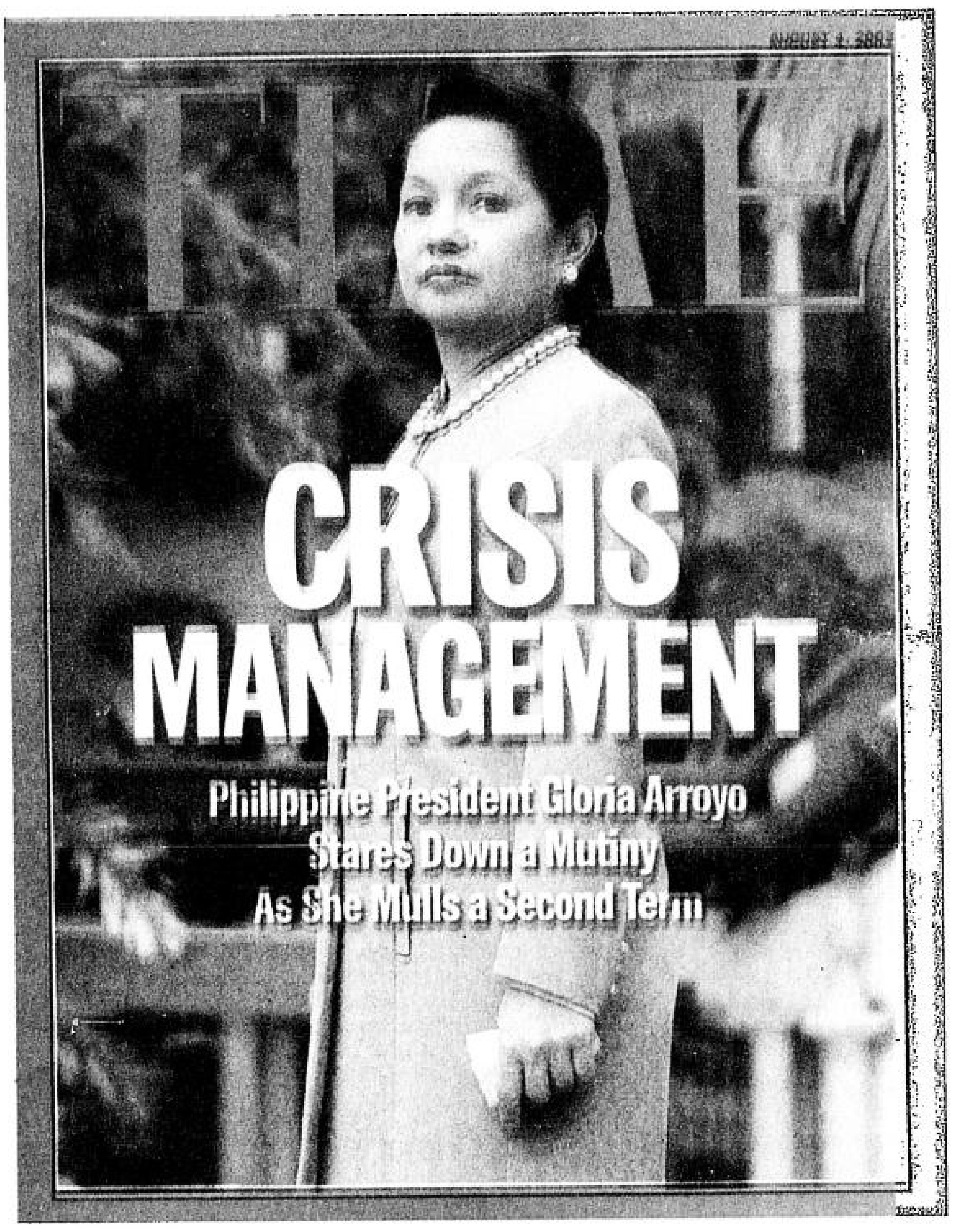
FOR THE third time, President Macapagal-Arroyo made it to the Aug. 4 cover of the Asian edition of TIME magazine, which noted that the President "doesn't look like a politician ready to leave office next year."

The cover story was titled: "A time for prayer, As mutineers seize a Manila complex and demand that the government resign, Arroyo faces her presidency's toughest test."

It showed the President hands outstretched in prayer with eyes closed. The caption went -- "Seeking Divine intervention: Arroyo looks to God for guidance as officers . . . (were) demanding her resignation on TV."

She graced TIME Asia's cover after she was installed President during the Edsa People Power II and in its Jan. 28,

GLORIA/ A19


TIME
AUGUST 4, 2003
CRISIS MANAGEMENT
Philippine President Gloria Arroyo Stares Down a Mutiny As She Mulls a Second Term

NOT EXACTLY the Philippine Tatler's Woman in Black but the "real Gloria, a hard-nosed technocrat" on the rise, and some strong results have followed," according to Time magazine's Asian edition.

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio

A KNIGHT has been sacrificed.

Rebel soldiers appear to have notched a victory on Tuesday when President Macapagal-Arroyo accepted the "irrevocable resignation" of Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus as chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He was said to have personally discussed his resignation with her on that day.

"In chess, when a queen is beleaguered it is sometimes necessary to sacrifice a knight to save the game," Corpus said in his resignation letter. "I feel that the restiveness will not calm down with my continued presence."

The resignation of Corpus, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, and Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane was among the demands made by the renegade troops after they seized the Oakwood Premier serviced apartments in Makati in a 22-hour uprising on Sunday.

The mutineers accused Corpus and Reyes of masterminding the bombings in Davao City in March and April—a charge that both men strongly denied.

But the mutineers claimed that Corpus was in Davao when a bomb exploded in the crowded Sasa wharf, killing 16 people in April. They said Corpus was either involved or so incompetent that he failed to detect and foil the attack.

"The current political crisis is far from finished," Corpus said in

CORPUS/ A18

Majority of Class 1995 not mutineers

MOST of the members of Philippine Military Academy Class 1995 were opposed to their fellows' mutiny on Sunday to seek redress for grievances.

Reading from a statement, Navy Lt. Senior Grade Joseph Michael Santos, spokesperson of Marilag Class of 1995, said the majority of the class sympathized with the mutineers' "legitimate grievances" but "did not patronize the use of force as a means of airing [these]."

"Our class has remained steadfast in our duties and responsibilities as officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We uphold the Constitution and the Republic to which we swore allegiance," he said.

MAJORITY/ A19

Peso edges closer to 55 to US dollar

THE PESO yesterday edged toward the critical level of 55 to the US dollar as Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho acknowledged that Sunday's failed military mutiny would have a long-term negative impact on the country's struggling economy.

The peso on Wednesday closed weaker for the fourth consecutive session, pressured by continuing jitters over the mutiny. The peso opened at 54.77 against the US dollar at the Philippine Dealing System but finished at a new four-month low of 54.70, down from 54.67 on Tuesday. Volume declined to $160.55 million from $171.5 million on Tuesday.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 2.96 points, or 0.2 percent, at

PESO/ A19

INQ7.net gets 2.6M page views

By JV Rufino
Editor in chief, INQ7.net

THE FAILED mutiny of junior military officers and enlisted men pushed Internet traffic on INQ7.net to levels not seen since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed power in January 2001.

From Saturday evening, when INQ7.net first broke the news that the President had confirmed reports of a coup attempt against the government, to Monday, when the President delivered her State of the Nation Address, INQ7.net registered about 2.6 million page views from at least 145,000 unique visitors.

INQ7.NET/ A18

President's men say 'twas Gringo who called

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IT'S the other way around.

Top Palace emissaries sent to talk to the soldiers who staged a mutiny on Sunday, yesterday disputed the "self-serving" claim of Sen. Gregorio Honasan in his privileged speech on Tuesday that he was asked by Malacañang to help convince the renegades to end the siege in Makati.

Rene Velasco, senior deputy presidential chief of staff, said Honasan offered to talk to the mutineers to save his neck.

"He offered to help. I can only surmise (it's because) the rebellion, of which he is the adviser and idol, was already failing. So how can you charge him with mutiny when he's mediating?" Velasco said in an interview.

In a statement, Velasco said: "I did not call Senator Honasan nor initiate our meeting. He was the one who called me notably after the surrender of over 50 rebel soldiers (late in the afternoon of Sunday)."

"He said it was the Palace who asked him to intervene. It's the other way around. He called us," said Velasco, Honasan's fraternity brother. They both belong to Alpha Sigma.

Michael Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, who spoke

PRESIDENT'S/ A18

Inquirer story part of evidence vs Strunk in US

AN INQUIRER story will be part of the evidence to be presented when the first hearing of the extradition application for Rod Strunk, the principal suspect in the murder of his wife, movie actress Nida Blanca, is held on Aug. 8 in Sacramento, California.

US District Judge Gregory Hollows of Branch 24 in Sacramento, will hear the case after he finally rejected on July 25 Strunk's supplemental motion for relief from detention.

Strunk has been detained in a Sacramento jail since his arrest on May 13.

The evidence will be submitted by the American lawyer, Ken Melikian, who represents the US and Philippine governments, Harriet Demetriou, who represents the victim's family, told the INQUIRER during a phone interview yesterday.

"During our meeting last Monday with Ken Melikian, he asked Kaye (Torres, Blanca's daughter by her first husband) if she had anything more that he could use as evidence pertaining to the relationship of her mother and stepfather.

Demetriou said that Kaye whipped out a portfolio of documents that she had compiled on the Strunk case including newsclips. Melikian singled out an INQUIRER article dated Nov. 23, 2001 and titled, "The Suspect: Strunk up close and personal."

A portion of the article quoted Strunk's good friend Chito Ponce Enrile saying that Kaye Torres, who

INQUIRER/ A19

PCIJ journalist wins Magsaysay Award

A FILIPINO journalist, a Chinese AIDS activist, an Indian working to eradicate child labor, and a Japanese health worker in Afghanistan are among seven people to be honored this year with the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's version of the Nobel Prize.

This year's winners include Filipino journalist Sheila Coronel, founder and executive director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. She will receive the award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts for "leading a groundbreaking collaborative effort to develop investigative journalism as a critical component of democratic discourse in the Philippines."

The annual awards, named after late Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay, will be presented on Aug. 31 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The awards were established by the trustees of the New York-based Rockefeller Brothers' Fund to perpetuate Magsaysay's example of government integrity and pragmatic idealism in a democratic society. Magsaysay died in a plane crash in 1957.

PCIJ/ A7

HINDI YUN HELE-HELE BAGO QUIERE

Rape law lets people change mind during sex

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois—A new rape law in Illinois attempts to clarify the issue of consent by emphasizing that people can change their mind while having sex.

The law is the first of its kind in the US, according to the National Crime Victim

RAPE/ A7

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas will experience rains and gusty winds. The coastal waters over these ares will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/31/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

State of rebellion stays–DOJ

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE STATE of rebellion declared by the President could go on indefinitely until the government decides that rebel soldiers no longer pose a threat, the justice department said yesterday.

Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said that the law does not say how long a state of rebellion can exist.

"There is really no duration, no definite period. It is indefinite in the sense that, as long as the need exists," Gutierrez said.

She said it was for the government, particularly the military and police, to determine whether there is no longer a credible threat against the state and the state of rebellion should be lifted.

President Macapagal-Arroyo issued a proclamation that a state of rebellion existed at the height of the mutiny of junior military officers on Sunday.

Gutierrez said that while the rebel soldiers' takeover of the Oakwood Premier apartment hotel in Makati has ended, the mutineers might still have conspirators in military and police units in other parts of the country.

She said these elements should be identified and weeded out.

It does not mean, however, that the state of rebellion should last for a long time, Gutierrez said.

Warrantless arrests

"There should be an assessment. The proper government authorities who can do that are the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police. They have the intelligence capability to determine whether to continue or lift the state of rebellion," she said.

She said that under the state of rebellion, warrantless arrests, surveillance and other means necessary to vanquish the rebels are allowed if they are "reasonable."

These measures should be "within the bounds of the law" and law enforcers should "observe constitutional rights," she said.

Asked if opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan can be arrested without a warrant, Gutierrez demurred, saying she "respected" Senate President Franklin Drilon's statement that the authorities should have the evidence before arresting the senator.

Some top officials have accused Honasan of involvement in the rebellion. The senator, who led several bloody failed coups in the 1980s, has denied the charge.

Gutierrez said that even the rebel soldiers who surrendered should not be deprived of due process.

Due process

"There is such a thing as due process. Be it under military or civil law, constitutional rights must be respected," she said.

Informed that the five ringleaders of the mutiny were being held incommunicado at the military intelligence compound in Camp Aguinaldo, she said this could be some kind of disciplinary measure.

The justice undersecretary defended the legality of the state of rebellion proclamation, noting that the Supreme Court upheld the validity of a similar declaration during the so-called "Edsa Tres" uprising of the supporters of jailed ex-president Estrada on May 1, 2001.

That proclamation led to the arrest of then senator Juan Ponce Enrile.

Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he would file a resolution calling for a Senate inquiry "on the meaning of a state of rebellion."

"We have to clarify what powers are assumed by the President when she declares a state of rebellion in the country," Biazon told reporters.

No new powers

But Senate President Franklin Drilon, who is a lawyer, said that "there is nothing in a state of rebellion which adds more power to the Executive."

Drilon said that he had already relayed to the President through her legislative liaison Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s position that Malacañang should already lift the state of rebellion.

However, he said he would leave it up to the President's judgment when to lift the declaration.

"The President is in possession of information which we do not have, therefore it's not fair for me to take a position one way or another," he told reporters. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

JUSTICE Florentino Feliciano takes his oath before President Macapagal, who raised the questions for investigators to answer.

Mutiny probe body told to find answers for GMA

By Gil C. Cabacungan

ARE the country's soldiers miseducated? Is the country's military organization mismanaged? Are some politicians just too savvy at persuading whining officers to overthrow the government?

This is what President Macapagal-Arroyo wants the Feliciano Commission to know as the fact-finding panel starts its investigation into what drove nearly 300 junior officers and soldiers to stage a mutiny in the country's financial center last Sunday.

"I would really want to know how and why idealistic and intelligent young officers are inveigled to join these plots by self-serving politicians," the President said.

"Either there is something wrong about how we educate our soldiers or there is something wrong with the way we manage our military or some unscrupulous politicians have superb persuasive skills, or all of the above," said Ms Macapagal.

Yesterday the President appointed three more members—including a founding member of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement and a classmate of one of the mutinous soldiers—to the probe body.

The new members—Jesuit priest Joaquin G. Bernas, retired Commodore Rex C. Robles and Army Capt. Rex Banjo Bumanlag—brings to six the number of commissioners in the fact-finding body led by retired Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano.

She appointed Feliciano, retired SC Justice Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes and University of the Philippines professor Carolina Hernandez when she announced the formation of the commission the other day.

Yesterday, Ms Macapagal signed Administrative Order No. 78, instructing the commission to evaluate all the facts and circumstances surrounding the rebellion, its roots and the provocations that inspired it, and to submit its findings and recommendations to the President.

The President said she expected the commission to provide her with "a clear picture of how a conspiracy like this ripens into armed action."

Feliciano, a retired Supreme Court Justice, took his oath yesterday in Malacañang. He later joined the President and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo in a closed-door meeting.

Bernas is a constitutional expert and the dean of the Ateneo de Manila University Law School.

Robles, considered a psy-war expert, is a member of the RAM which led several bloody failed coups in the 1980s. Robles was a participant in at least one of those coups against the Aquino administration.

Bumanlag is a classmate of one of the mutiny's leaders, Lt. Sgt. Antonio Trillanes, at the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1995.

The President said there would no whitewash or cover-up. The culprits would be brought to justice and reforms would be undertaken if warranted.

She has not identified any of the politicians that she had been referring to as the unseen hand in the mutiny but some officials have been pointing to opposition Sen. Gringo Honasan and jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada as the strategists and financial backers of the mutiny.

Mutineers may face rebellion, coup raps, too

By Philip C. Tubeza and Christian V. Esguerra

BESIDES court-martial proceedings, the soldiers involved in the mutiny in Makati could face criminal charges in civilian courts, the Department of Justice said yesterday.

"That is possible," Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said.

She explained that the court martial proceedings the mutineers were facing "under the Articles of War" were separate from their culpability under the Revised Penal Code.

Under the Penal Code, the mutineers could be charged with either coup d'etat or rebellion. These are categorized as crimes against public order. Rebellion, a non-bailable offense, carries a penalty of 40 years imprisonment. A convicted coup leader faces 40 years while his supporters in government service face up to 20 years in prison.

Gutierrez said the DOJ was still waiting for the evidence collated by the police and the military to find out if there was enough proof to charge in court those who took part in the mutiny.

The DOJ has created three panels of prosecutors to handle the charges against those who took part in the mutiny on Sunday.

Justices won't bar selves from Estrada trial

By Armand N. Nocum

SANDIGANBAYAN justices yesterday refused to disqualify themselves from the plunder trial of former President Joseph Estrada and denied with finality the petition for the dismissal of the case.

The anti-graft court's special division threw out the motion of the lawyer of the ousted president to have the justices disqualify themselves for allegedly prejudging the case.

Also yesterday, the special division denied with finality Estrada's motion to dismiss the plunder charges for lack of jurisdiction since he remains President of the country.

In a 10-page resolution, the special division held that Estrada lawyer Alan Paguia should not give any color to the "stupid" remark made by Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario during a recent hearing.

The anti-graft court said the remark is a natural reaction of a person who is being asked to do something beyond his power.

"We find the questioned reaction justified under the obtaining situation. The quote should not be given a shadowy interpretation," the court said.

Paguia sought the disqualification of the three justices of the special division after Nazario blurted out *"Ano kami, gago?"* in reaction to Paguia's request that then anti-graft court go against the ruling of the Supreme Court relative to the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

Paguia had asked the Sandiganbayan, an inferior court, to overturn the decision of the highest court of the land.

"It is obvious, if not manifest, that Paguia wants this court to make an inconsistent, if not contradictory, position," the court said, adding that the justices have "not breached nor ruptured the cold neutrality of an impartial judge tenet."

Bush may witness signing of peace pact

By Gil Cabacungan and Gerald G. Lacuarta

UNITED States President George Bush wants to witness the signing of a peace accord between the government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front during his visit to the Philippines in October.

This was revealed by President Macapagal-Arroyo during a Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council meeting in Malacañang.

This means the government will have to wrap up the negotiations— set to start on Monday in Kuala Lumpur—in less than three months.

The President said this would depend on the Malaysian government which, according to Malaysian ambassador Mohamed Taufik yesterday, has agreed to host the stalled talks and was ready with all the logistics and security preparations.

Ms Macapagal said Malaysia, which is acting as a third-party intermediary in the peace talks, has already consented to a "supportive role" for the US in the negotiations.

The President is looking to Washington to provide financial help in the rehabilitation of the war-ravaged areas of Mindanao and to the eradication of the roots of the insurgency.

She said the US has committed $30 million in aid to Mindanao this year and another $20 million next year.

She is hopeful that more funds would be forthcoming once a formal peace agreement is signed.

Taufik said he was informed yesterday by Secretary Eduardo Ermita, the government's chief negotiator, that the preliminary opening of the talks would be on Aug. 4.

"We are prepared to host it as long as both parties are prepared to agree without hitches," Taufik told reporters.

The government and the rebels have already resolved all the "technical obstacles" to the resumption of the talks. The government agreed to to lift the arrest warrants against MILF leaders accused of involvement in the bombings in Davao City earlier this year, and the two sides signed a ceasefire agreement.

The Malaysian Cabinet will take up today the Philippines' request for Malaysia to send a team to monitor the ceasefire.

The Malaysian news agency Bernama reported that the Malaysian Army was waiting for instructions on the peace monitoring mission which the Malaysian foreign ministry is still negotiating.

Meanwhile, a Saudi Arabian official has promised to support the Philippine bid for permanent observer status in the Organization of Islamic Conference of Muslim-led countries.

Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Saudi deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, has reportedly expressed satisfaction with the progress of the peace talks with the MILF.

The Saudi crown prince made the commitment during a courtesy call made by Amable R. Aguiluz V, special envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Philippine Embassy officials.

"Aside from their (Saudi government's) support, Prince Abdullah will try his best to get the support of other OIC member countries in our bid for permanent observer status in the OIC," Aguiluz said.

Last May, the OIC invited Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople to the 30th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the OIC in Tehran, Iran. It was the first time a DFA chief was invited to the OIC conference.

Senate ruling bloc to share power with opposition

By Michael Lim Ubac

IN A BID to appease a restive minority, the administration bloc in the Senate has agreed to share power with opposition senators.

During a caucus Tuesday night, eight of the 12 administration senators decided to let go of the committee on urban planning, housing and resettlement, and may also give up the energy committee.

Senators Robert Barbers, Manuel Villar, Ralph Recto and Ramon Revilla Sr. failed to attend the caucus.

However, the ruling bloc maintained its tight grip of the committee on education, a powerful committee being eyed by opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, who is seeking reelection next year.

This committee will be permanently chaired by Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

As vice chair of the committee, Pangilinan had to assume its chairmanship when the late Sen. Renato Cayetano went to the US to undergo liver operations early this year.

"I will retain the education committee, but give up the Housing Committee," said Pangilinan who chairs two other committees—ethics and privileges, and justice and human rights.

He admitted that the decision to give up the housing portfolio was prompted by persistent clamor by the minority to delegate tasks to opposition senators.

"Y[illegible] There is no problem with that. It's just a matter of determining what committee should be offered to the minority," he said.

He explained that since there were more than 30 standing committees, and only 22 senators, "there really is a need to farm out chairmanships of the committees."

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said over the weekend that she had no objections to committees being shared with the opposition.

But she added: "I'm not sure that they (opposition senators) would be able to get what they requested. Let's see first."

Pangilinan agreed that a minor Senate reorganization was in order because of the sudden death of Cayetano.

"We need to fill up the vacant committees, and so the majority felt that this would be the best thing to do."

He admitted that the administration senators also discussed the fate of the energy committee, which is reportedly being eyed by opposition Sen. John Osmeña.

"As far as energy is concerned, we have not finalized discussions about it."

Although admitting that some senators wanted to give it up, "the concern being raised is its effect on the chairmanship of the Congressional Power Oversight power Commission."

Cayetano had co-chaired the commission when he was still energy committee chair.

Legarda admitted over the weekend that the current leadership in the Senate was "fragile."

Although she stressed that it "is very quiet" in the Senate, there is a "very fragile difference" between the 12-member majority bloc and 10-member minority bloc.

Bishops buck GMA call for traffickers' execution

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE CATHOLIC Church continues to oppose death penalty, even for convicted drug dealers.

Shortly after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared that she would lift the moratorium on executions of illegal drugs dealers and traffickers, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines vowed to fight the death penalty.

CBCP spokesperson Hernando Coronel said that the President's declaration would not hinder the bishops and the Catholic religious from lobbying against capital punishment.

"We will continue the crusade. We are against death penalty in all cases," Coronel said in an interview after the thanksgiving Mass at the Edsa shrine the other day.

He added that the bishops were still lobbying for the repudiation of the death penalty law itself, which has not been imposed since last year after the President declared a moratorium on executions.

But Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon), vice chair of the House committee on illegal drugs, yesterday suggested that foreign drug traffickers should be the first ones in the death row to be executed.

He was making a follow up on Ms Macapagal's pronouncement in her State of the Nation Address that it has become untenable to maintain the stay in the execution of convicted drug traders.

Ibarrola; 58

ERNESTO Tayag Ibarrola, of Pangasinan and Caloocan City, died July 28 at 58.

He is survived by wife Adela Naranja-Ibarrola, children and their spouses Suzette and Romy Cruz, Lani Andrade, Geraldine and Alfred Suarez, Dong and Amy, Uly, Alvaine, Gene, Lito, Angelou, and grandchildren.

The body lies at the St. Martin de Porres Chapel, Grace Park, Caloocan. It will be taken to Agno, Pangasinan, this morning for burial.

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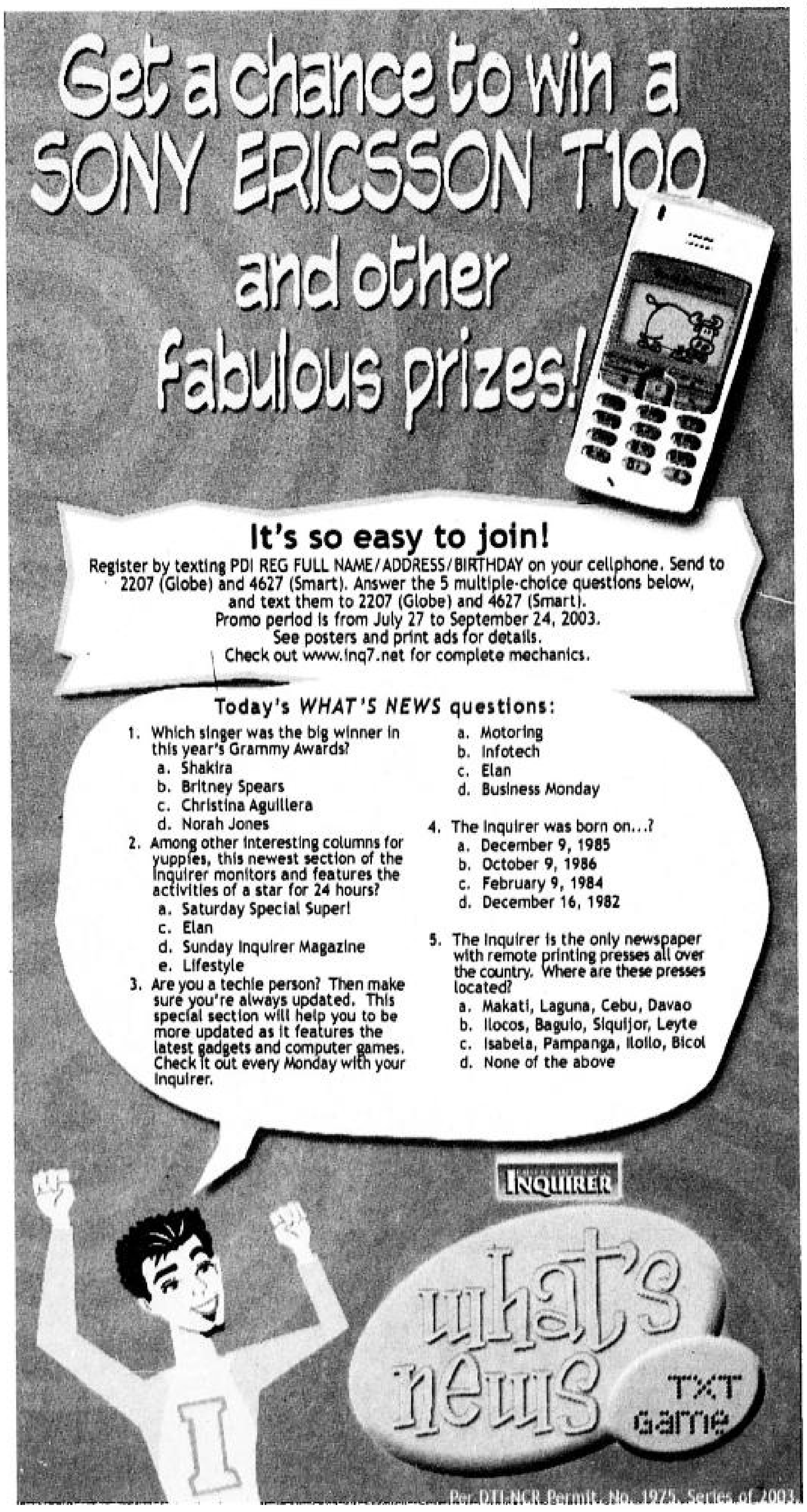

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Today's *WHAT'S NEWS* questions:

1. Which singer was the big winner in this year's Grammy Awards?
   a. Shakira
   b. Britney Spears
   c. Christina Aguillera
   d. Norah Jones
2. Among other interesting columns for yuppies, this newest section of the Inquirer monitors and features the activities of a star for 24 hours?
   a. Saturday Special Super!
   c. Elan
   d. Sunday Inquirer Magazine
   e. Lifestyle
3. Are you a techie person? Then make sure you're always updated. This special section will help you to be more updated as it features the latest gadgets and computer games. Check it out every Monday with your Inquirer.
   a. Motoring
   b. Infotech
   c. Elan
   d. Business Monday
4. The Inquirer was born on...?
   a. December 9, 1985
   b. October 9, 1986
   c. February 9, 1984
   d. December 16, 1982
5. The Inquirer is the only newspaper with remote printing presses all over the country. Where are these presses located?
   a. Makati, Laguna, Cebu, Davao
   b. Ilocos, Baguio, Siquijor, Leyte
   c. Isabela, Pampanga, Iloilo, Bicol
   d. None of the above

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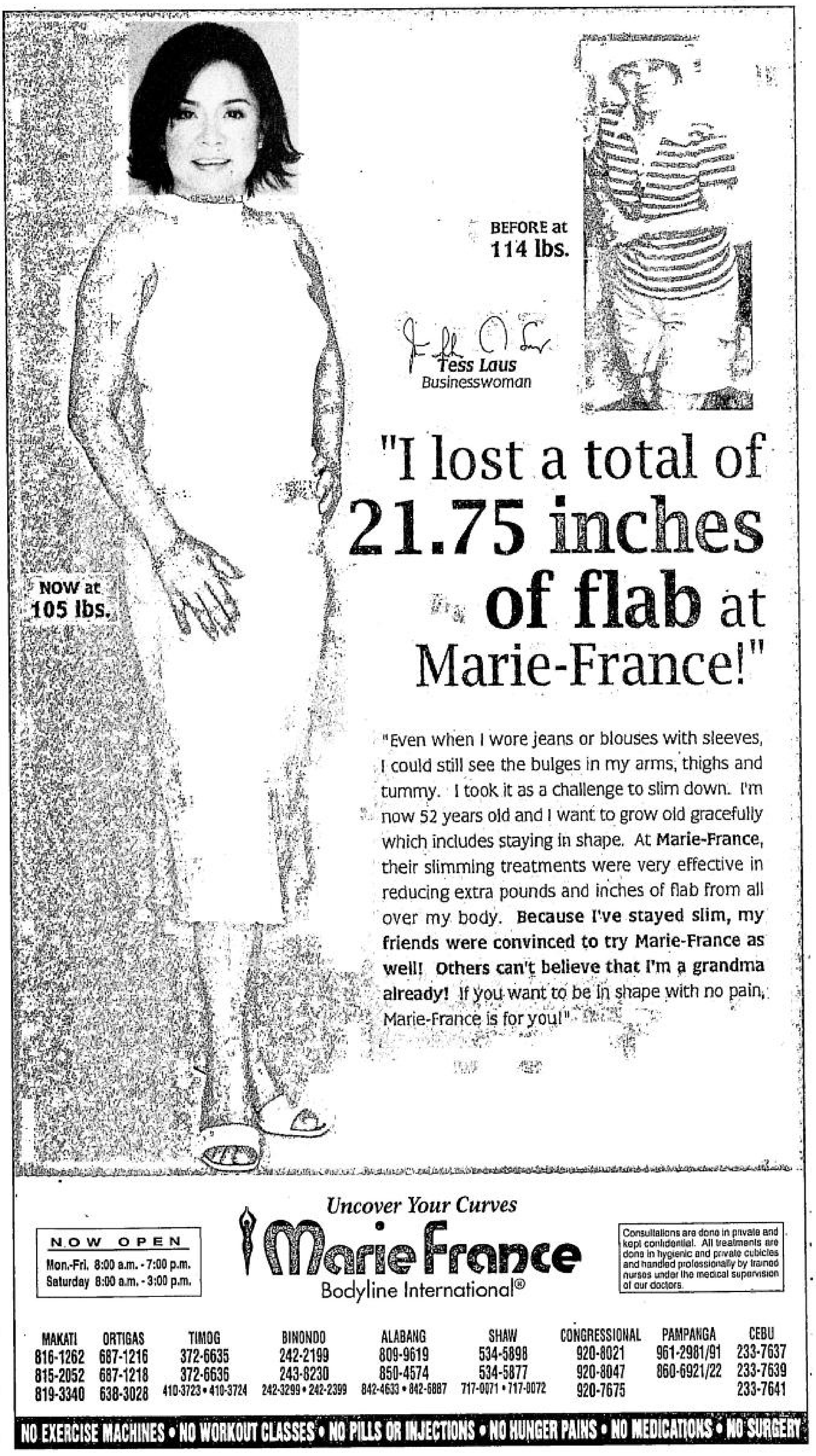

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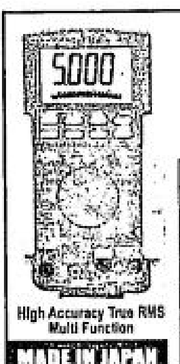
Javier; 88

ISIDRO Javier, a war veteran from Dinalupihan, Bataan, died yesterday after a lingering illness. He was 88.

He is survived by wife Romana and children Yollie and Ernie Gonzales, Rolly and Ging-Ging, Isidro Jr. (Banny) and Yollie, Renton and Cynthia, Dante and Linda, Phet and Vengie, Dick and Fe and Flora (Baby) and Jojo Soliman.

His remains lie at the family residence on Mabini Extension in Dinalupihan. Interment will be on Sunday afternoon.



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SC upholds Senate probe of RSBS

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday cleared the way for the Senate blue ribbon committee to compel a lawyer to testify on the alleged misuse of funds from the Armed Forces Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS).

The decision came after the mutinous soldiers on Sunday cited corruption in the military as one of the reasons for their rebellion.

In a unanimous full court decision, the tribunal overturned the order of a General Santos City Regional Trial Court that barred the Senate committee from summoning lawyer Nilo Flaviano to testify on the AFP-RSBS' acquisition of a lot in General Santos.

The RSBS allegedly bought the land from Flaviano for P10,500 per square meter when the deed of sale filed with the Register of Deeds indicated that the purchase price of the lot was only P3,000 per square meter.

The high court also reversed the April 15, 1999 decision of the RTC judge, Jose B. Majaducon, that found Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, the blue ribbon committee chair at that time, in indirect contempt.

Majaducon cited Pimentel for indirect contempt after a news report, quoting the blue ribbon committee's petition for certiorari before the SC, alleged that the judge was guilty of gross ignorance of the rules and procedures when he tried to stop the Senate investigation.

Majaducon first issued a temporary restraining order, and later a writ of preliminary injunction against Pimentel's committee.

"It bears stressing that the power to declare a person in contempt of court must be exercised on the preservative, not vindicative principle, and on corrective and not retaliatory idea of punishment," said the Court's 13-page decision penned by Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago.

The SC pointed out that Pimentel used the phrase "gross ignorance of the law" not to malign the RTC but to express what he believed was a violation of separation of powers.

The SC agreed with Pimentel that under the constitutional principle of separation of powers, the RTC had no authority to prohibit the blue ribbon committee from summoning Flaviano to testify.

"There is grave abuse of discretion when the respondent acts in a capricious, whimsical, arbitrary or despotic manner in the exercise of his judgement, as when the assailed order is bereft of any legal justification. In this case, the assailed resolution of respondent Judge Majaducon was without legal basis," the Court said.

The SC said that Senate investigation was well within its constitutional authority to conduct inquiries in aid of legislation.

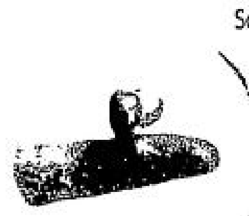
"Hence, the regional trial court of General Santos City, or any court for that matter, had no authority to prohibit the committee from requiring (Flaviano) to appear and testify before it," the Court said.

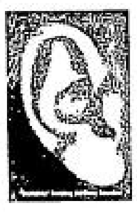
It added that the investigation into the RSBS controversy was launched to enact proper legislation that would protect the rights and interests of the members of the armed forces.

The Senate inquiry was spawned by two resolutions filed by then Sen. Blas Ople and Sen. Vicente Sotto III.

Ople called for an inquiry in the allegations of then Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado that a group of active and retired military officers were organizing a coup d'etat to prevent the Estrada administration from investigating irregularities in the armed forces.

Sotto, on the other hand, called for an investigation into the alleged mismanagement of the funds and investment portfolio of the RSBS.





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RP presses Burma to release Suu Kyi

THE PHILIPPINES yesterday expressed disappointment over the continuing detention of Burma's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and told the country's visiting diplomat to free her, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said.

Ople said he relayed the government's message to Burma's Deputy Foreign Minister Khin Maung Win, who traveled to Manila on Tuesday to brief Ople on recent political developments in his country.

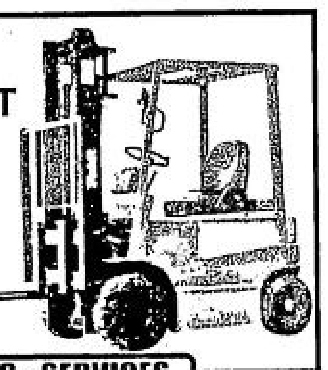
During the meeting, Ople said he reiterated the appeal of the Philippines and other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for Suu Kyi's early release so she could pursue her political activities, but that Maung Win could not commit to a date.

"I was a little disappointed that no decision has yet been taken by Myanmar on this issue," Ople said.

Ople also reiterated a plan by Asean foreign ministers to send a diplomatic mission to Burma. He did not elaborate.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Suu Kyi has been detained since a May 30 clash in northern Burma between her supporters and a pro-junta mob. Despite an international clamor for her release, including from the normally non-interventionist Asean, Burma's military government has remained defiant, refusing to say where she's being held or when she would be freed.

Burma has sent envoys to several Asian countries to explain Suu Kyi's detention, which has halted a reconciliation process that started in October 2000 with talks between her and the government. The dialogue made little progress. *AP*



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Doy wants US trip extended

FORMER Vice President Salvador "Doy" Laurel, who is facing graft charges before the Sandiganbayan, has asked the anti-graft court to allow him to extend his trip abroad for further medical tests.

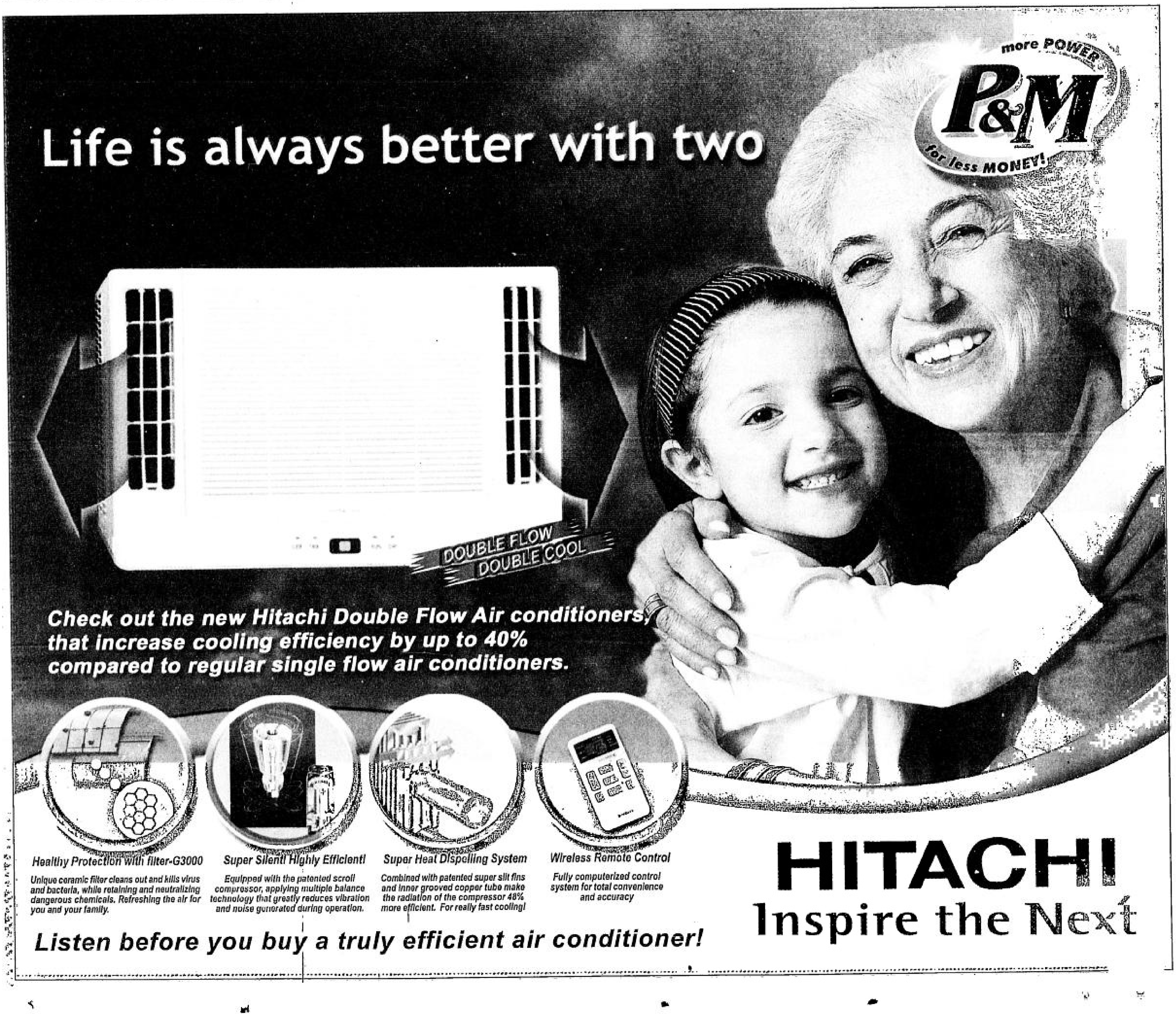
The Sandiganbayan's Fifth Division had allowed Laurel to go to the US on June 28 to have his case of "severe anemia" and "low platelet count" checked at the Stanford Hospital and Clinics.

After a month and a half of almost daily examinations, Stanford doctors found Laurel to be suffering from a "certain type of lymphoma."

In a three-page motion filed by Laurel's lawyers, Leon Asa and Jose Oliveros, Laurel asked that he allowed to stay abroad until Aug. 15 to get a "second opinion" on his ailment.

Laurel wants to consult Dr. Joseph Connors, who heads the Lymphoma Tumor Group of the British Columbia Cancer Agency in Canada.

Laurel faces a graft suit in connection with the P9.6 billion Centennial Expo Scam. The former head of the National Centennial Commission is accused of unilaterally increasing the budget of the amphitheater from P248 million to P1.165 billion in the 1998 Centennial Expo. *Armand N. Nocum*



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Gov't to ask 10,000 'obsolete' workers to retire

By Clarissa S. Batino

SOME 10,000 government workers will be asked to retire once Malacañang issues an executive order setting the guidelines on the retirement of public employees whose functions have become outdated, irrelevant or redundant.

There are 1.5 million public workers, a million of whom work for the national government.

An example of an office that could end up being abolished is a unit of the transport and telecommunications department that operates telegraph offices nationwide. With the advent of facsimile transmission, satellite technology and other means of communications, the telegraph has become virtually obsolete.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said a one-time streamlining of the bureaucracy had been scheduled this year, and would happen once President Macapagal-Arroyo signs the executive order.

A draft EO is ready for the President's signature, she said.

Boncodin estimated that trimming down the bureaucracy to remove between 6,000 and 10,000 employees would cost the government about P10 billion.

The amount is included in this year's budget and will go to the retirement benefits of the affected workers.

Boncodin said the cost should be offset by some P8 billion in yearly savings from the salaries of the workers who will retire. The savings will go to the government agencies that will be affected by the redundancies.

The budget chief made clear, however, that there will be no forced retirements.

Affected

"If a government unit has to be rationalized, those to be affected can choose the voluntary retirement package or opt to transfer to another unit or agency. We are streamlining the functions and not the people," said Boncodin.

She explained that the move to streamline the bureaucracy started last year when 77 agencies and task forces attached to the Office of the President were abolished, saving the government P56 million in annual salaries and overhead expenses. But it also left 110 people in limbo.

The second wave of the reorganization, set to begin in late 2002, never took place. But it may happen once the EO is signed, said Boncodin.

In September 2002, the budget department came up with a short list of 13 agencies that could be abolished leading to the possible retirement of 6,851 employees.

Boncodin said the list of agencies to be deactivated would be finalized by the Presidential Commission on Effective Governance, the group formed to trim down the bureaucracy.

Included in the list of 13 agencies are those under the trade and industry, public works and highways, agriculture, foreign affairs and justice departments, and the National Economic and Development Authority.

The agencies set for abolition under the DTI are the International Coffee Organization Certifying Agency, the Bonded Export Marketing Bond, and the Construction Manpower Development Foundation.

Under the DPWH are the Bureaus of Maintenance and Equipment and from the Department of Transport and Communications are the Telecommunications Office and the Office of Transport Cooperatives.

To be affected are the Cotton Development Administrative Authority and the Agricultural Credit Policy Council under the agriculture department.

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas under the DFA, the Commission on Settlement of Land Problems under the DOJ, the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency under the Neda will also be affected.

The National Book Authority is also included in the list. The National Printing Office has been slated for privatization.

Airport security still high

By Jerome Aning

EXTRA-strict security measures will continue to be implemented at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminals even after authorities have downgraded the alert status in the facility.

Manila International Airport Authority general manager Edgardo Manda said yesterday that the Level 3 red alert imposed on the NAIA last Sunday—when mutinous soldiers took over the Makati City financial district-has been downgraded to Level 2.

Security at the NAIA Terminals 1 and 2, as well as the domestic airport, would remain extra-strict as long as the state of rebellion declared by the President remains in effect, Manda told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"Please bear with us; this inconvenience is for your own sake," he added. Manda said the current security procedures were similar to those being implemented after the terror attacks in the United States and the Philippines.

Checkpoints remain both inside and outside the airport complex. Passengers and people accompanying or fetching them are randomly asked to produce identification cards. Instead of the usual profiling, guards conduct body searches and bag inspections for all going to the airport.

While the country remains under a state of rebellion, authorities may arrest without a warrant anyone directly or indirectly involved in the mutiny. Manda said they have yet to receive any request to watch out in the airport for persons believed involved in the mutiny.

The airport security agencies, particularly the national police's aviation security group, remain in constant touch with military and police bodies involved in investigating the failed mutiny.

The Manila International Airport Authority security chief, Assistant General Manager Angel Atutubo, on Sunday, denounced the coup attempt and deployed about 6,000 security personnel in the airport to prevent a possible takeover attempt.

During the Makati crisis, airport operations remained normal with no international and domestic fights being canceled.

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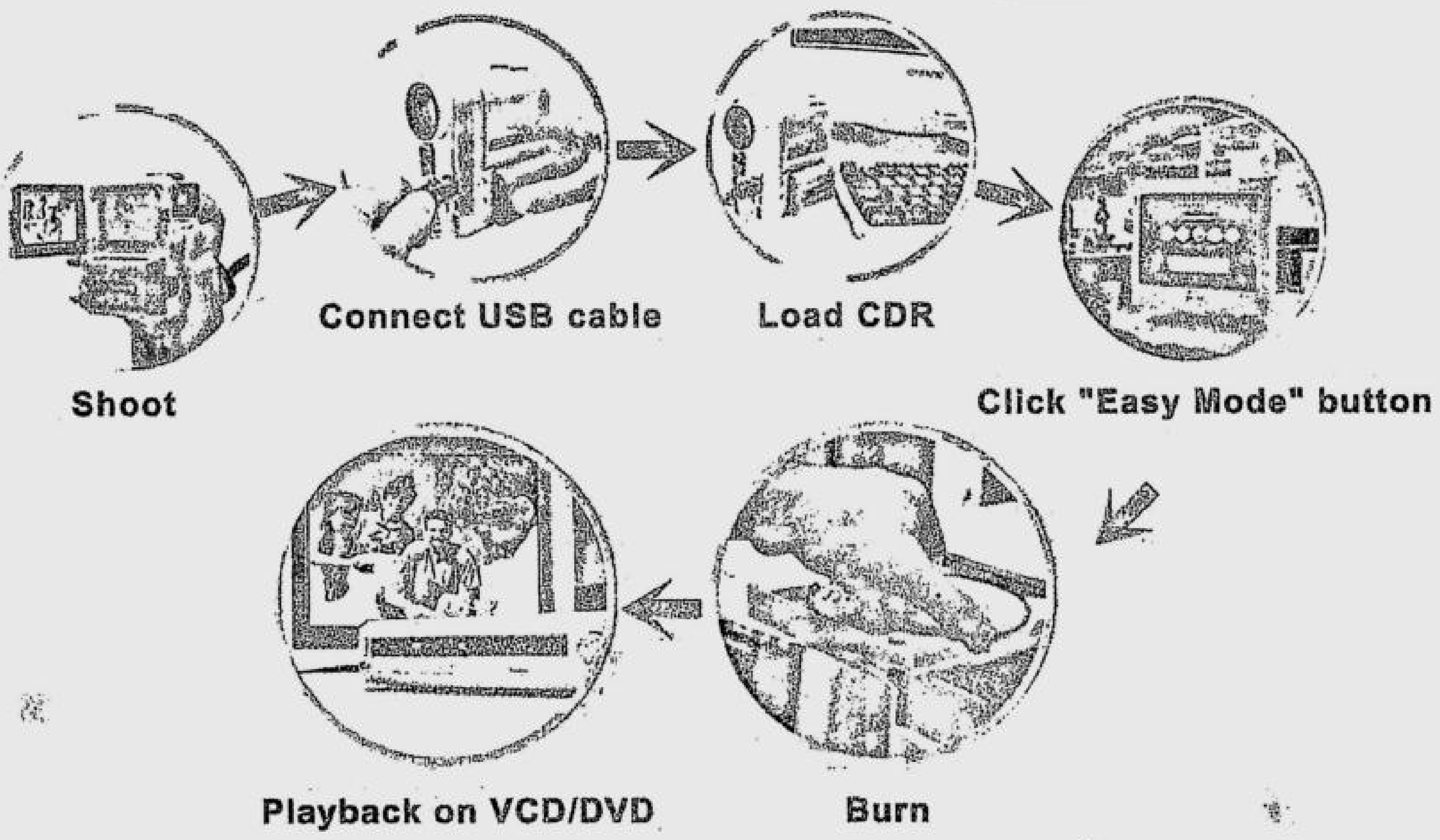

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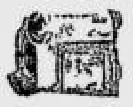
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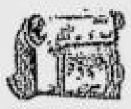
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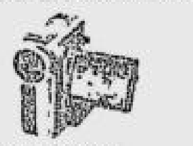
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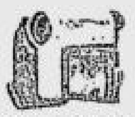
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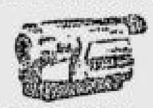
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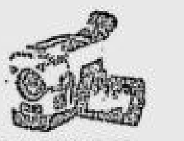
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ADDRESSING THE HUMAN FACE OF HIV/AIDS

A retired gynecologist, Dr. Gao Yaojie encountered her first AIDS patient in 1996, tracing the forty-year-old woman's deadly disease to tainted blood transfusion. Realizing the risks of rampant blood trade among the poor, and the prevalence of erroneous beliefs about the "strange disease", she wrote the first-ever AIDS prevention book and distributed copies herself at railway stations and clinics in Henan province. She also investigated the province's crowded villages, painstakingly documenting medical histories and uncovering a hidden epidemic. She sounded the alarm, but everywhere she turned there was ignorance, denial, indifference. Undaunted, she continued her crusade of AIDS education and comforting care for patients and their families in AIDS-impacted villages. When her published reports gained public,attention and newspapers exposed Henan's AIDS crisis to the world, Gao's movements were curtailed, her activities explicitly restricted. Still she fearlessly carried on, and slowly the tide began to turn. Today, the government acknowledges the country's AIDS crisis and thousands of Gao's books are in open circulation. The Foundation recognizes "her fervent personal crusade to confront the AIDS crisis in China and to address it humanely."

GAO YAOJIE

CHINA

2003
AWARDEE for
PUBLIC
SERVICE

ENDING THE SCOURGE OF CHILD LABOR

In India, many of those in bonded labor are children, given to creditors as payment for their families' debts. Disagreeing with many who believe that bonded labor is a deterrent to further poverty, Shantha Sinha instead sought to promote the absolute right of every child to education. Starting with a three-month long "camp" for fifty children rescued from bonded labor, she and volunteer teachers prepared the children to attend school. This initial project grew into a full-blown program encouraging parents and employers to release bonded children and prodding local communities to support "bridge schools" which eased the transition of the children into formal curriculum of public schools. She also sought to improve the schools where bridge-school students would eventually be enrolled; this she did by mobilizing parents, teachers and local officials in each school district to advocate for and to support various improvement. Today the Foundation's work extends to 2,500 villages, benefitting over 150,000 children. Sinha's effective strategies have been adopted and are being implemented throughout the Andhra Pradesh state. The Foundation recognizes "her guiding the people of Andhra Pradesh to end the scourge of child labor and send all of their children to school."

SHANTHA SINHA

INDIA

2003
AWARDEE for
COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP

BUILDING AN INFORMED CITIZENRY

Sheila Coronel was only fourteen when martial law was declared and the regime gagged the press. Intending to enter the law, she changed her mind after the Aquino assasination. She covered the movement to bring the Marcos dictatorship down and chronicled the EDSA revolution. Despite her journalistic achievements, she sought to redefine journalism beyond the conventional newsroom. She and eight like-minded colleagues founded the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ). She has been its Executive Director except for one year. Using painstaking and time-consuming research, Coronel and her partners developed in-depth stories of public interest on subjects hidden behind layers of power. They marketed the stories through the mainstream press, and mentored younger reporters in the tools of the trade. Under her leadership, PCIJ has produced a formidable body of work probing controversial issues in the nation's life, and spared no legitimate target. PCIJ's scrupulous reporting of the anomalies in the Estrada presidency helped set the stage for his eventual impeachment. The Foundation recognizes "her leading a groundbreaking collaborative effort to develop investigative journalism as a critical component of democratic discourse in the Philippines."

SHEILA CORONEL

PHILIPPINES

2003
AWARDEE for
JOURNALISM,
LITERATURE, and
CREATIVE
COMMUNICATION
ARTS

EASING THE PAIN OF WAR AND DISEASE

A Japanese doctor, Tetsu Nakamura first witnessed the cruel poverty of Afghanistan as a mountain climber. In 1984 he volunteered with the Japanese Overseas Christian Service, and worked from the mission hospital in Peshawar, close to the Afghanistan border. Ignoring grave personal danger, he organized a leprosy control program, emergency health centers for refugees during the Soviet occupation, and set up mobile clinics in the war zone. During the Taliban period, Nakamura won their confidence and was able to operate clinics for infectious diseases in territories under Taliban control. With the generous support of people back in Japan who have been enlightened by his publications and periodic speaking tours, he has expanded his medical activities through a hospital of his own. Today as head of the Peshawar-Kai Medical Service Hospital and its satellite clinics, Dr. Nakamura oversees the care of nearly 300,000 patients a year with the help of both local and Japanese volunteers. They also work in over 700 villages to provide wells and life-saving water in drought-stricken areas. The Foundation recognizes "his passionate commitment to ease the pains of war, disease and calamity among refugees and the mountain poor of the Afghanistan-Pakistan borderlands."

TETSU NAKAMURA

JAPAN

2003
AWARDEE for
PEACE AND
INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING

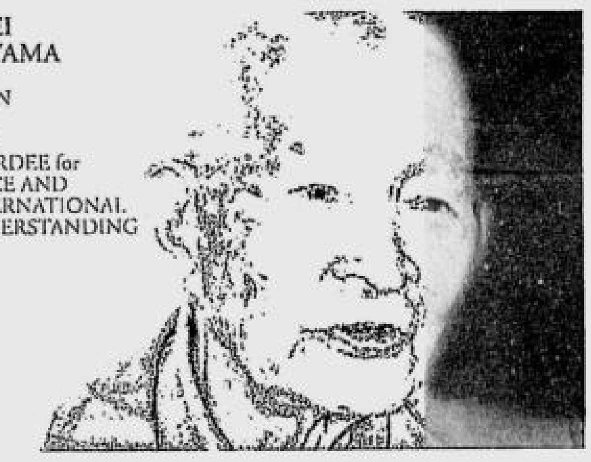
WORKING TOGETHER TO GREEN THE DESERTS

A former professor and Japanese authority on desert agriculture, Seiei Toyama decided to spend his long retirement years reversing the increasing desertification of Inner Mongolia, and thus preserve the numerous communities being destroyed by yearly sandstorms coming from the Gobi desert. Recruiting volunteers to work together in hundreds of tree-planting campaigns, he has demonstrated how China's encroaching deserts can be held at bay. Despite many setbacks, a forest of three million poplars, all planted and nurtured by hand, now stands where before there lay only the desolate desert sands. Agriculture is once again possible. His 5,000 volunteers from Japan and China have also shown how working together to save the earth breeds mutual understanding and reconciliation. Despite his age, Toyama continues to accompany his volunteers to the Engebei desert, exhorting them never to give up working together to meet the desert's challenge. The Foundation recognizes "his twenty-year crusade to green the deserts of China in a spirit of peace, solidarity and hope."

SEIEI TOYAMA

JAPAN

2003
AWARDEE for
PEACE AND
INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING



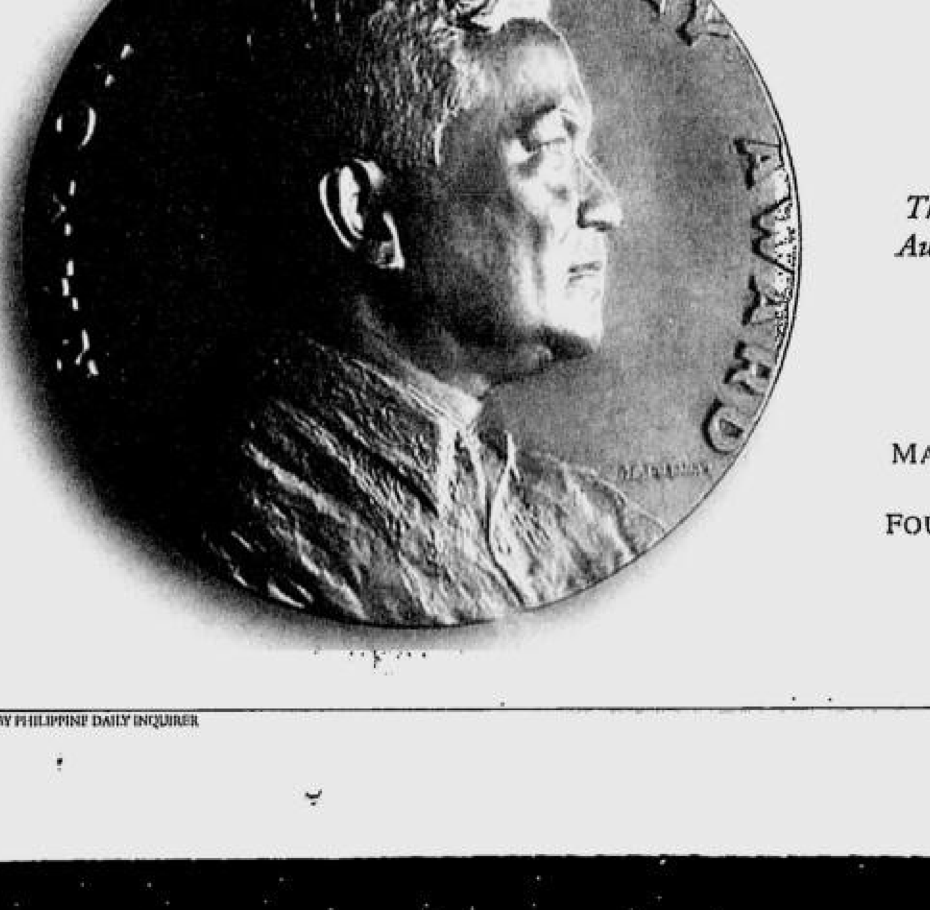
STANDING FOR FREEDOM AND THE RULE OF LAW

Aniceto Gurerres Lopes spent all his youth amid the unwelcome and repressive Indonesian occupation of East Timor. He joined the resistance, and in 1985 chose to study law in Bali. Learning that Indonesian law actually upheld certain basic rights that were being routinely denied in East Timor, in 1997 he organized *Yayasan HAK*, through which he and other lawyers provided free legal services to human rights victims. In the 1999 independence referendum the military launched a reign of terror to intimidate pro-independence voters. Unfazed, Aniceto organized election monitors to protect the voters and their votes; post-election revenge by the militias included the destruction of his own house and foundation headquarters. In the ensuing climate of anger and retribution, Aniceto, together with others, proposed a truth commission to heal the trauma of war and promote a just settlement of the political crimes committed. When the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation was formalized, Aniceto was unanimously elected to chair it. The Foundation recognizes "his courageous stand for justice and the rule of law during East Timor's turbulent passage to nationhood."

ANICETO GUTERRES LOPES

EAST TIMOR

2003
AWARDEE for
EMERGENT
LEADERSHIP



The public is cordially invited to meet the 2003 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees at the Awards Presentation Ceremonies, to be held at 4:30 P.M. on August 31, 2003 at the Main Theater, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

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ADVT.

PCIJ journalist wins Magsaysay Award

From page A1

Dr. Gao Yaojie, a retired Chinese gynecologist, will receive the public service award "for her fervent personal crusade to confront the AIDS crisis in China and to address it humanely," the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation said.

Indian Shantha Sinha was honored for her work to help children in India's southern Andhra Pradesh state. She will receive the community leadership award for "guiding the people of Andhra Pradesh to end the scourge of child labor and send all of their children to school."

Japanese physician Tetsu Nakamura, a leading volunteer health worker in Afghanistan and Pakistan, is being honored with the peace and international understanding award for "his passionate commitment to ease the pains of war, disease and calamity among refugees and the mountain poor of the Afghanistan-Pakistan borderlands."

Aniceto Guterres Lopes, chair of East Timor's Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation, will receive the emergent leadership award for "his courageous stand for justice and the rule of law during East Timor's turbulent passage to nationhood."

Japanese soil agriculturist and environmentalist Seiei Toyama will receive the peace and international understanding award for "his 20-year crusade to green the deserts of China in a spirit of solidarity and peace."

James Michael Lyngdoh, India's chief election commissioner, will receive the government service award for "his convincing validation of free and fair elections as the foundation and best hope of secular democracy in strife-torn India."

The winners will each receive a certificate, a medallion bearing the likeness of the late President, and a cash prize. *AP*

NAKAMURA of Japan

TOYAMA of Japan

LYNGDOH of India

CORONEL of the Philippines

SINHA of India

YAOJIE of China

LOPES of East Timor

Rape law lets people change . . .

From page A1

Law Institute.

Under the law, if someone says "no" at any time, the other person must stop or it becomes rape.

Lyn Schollett, general counsel for the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, said the law was important to make it clear to victims, offenders, prosecutors and juries that people have the right to halt sexual activity at any time.

"I think it will empower prosecutors in charging cases where the victim and the offender have a sexual history," she said.

But the director of the Victim Advocacy & Research Group in Boston said it would be hard to imagine courts not upholding a woman's right to withdraw consent.

"To me, it's demeaning," Wendy Murphy said. "It's like the old saying: 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' I don't think it was broke."

The law was inspired by a California case involving two 17-year-olds who had sex at a party. The girl changed her mind about having sex, but the boy did not stop immediately.

He was charged with rape, and it took years for the courts to decide that he could be found guilty under California law. The California Supreme Court ruled in January that a man could be convicted if a woman first consented but later asked him to stop.

Lawmakers said they wanted to avoid the same kind of long legal battle in Illinois. Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed the law on Friday but did not announce it until Monday. *AP*

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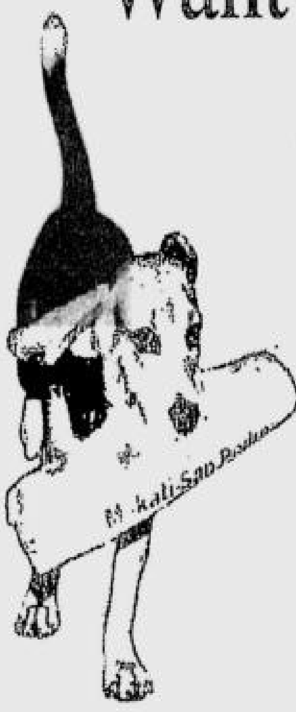

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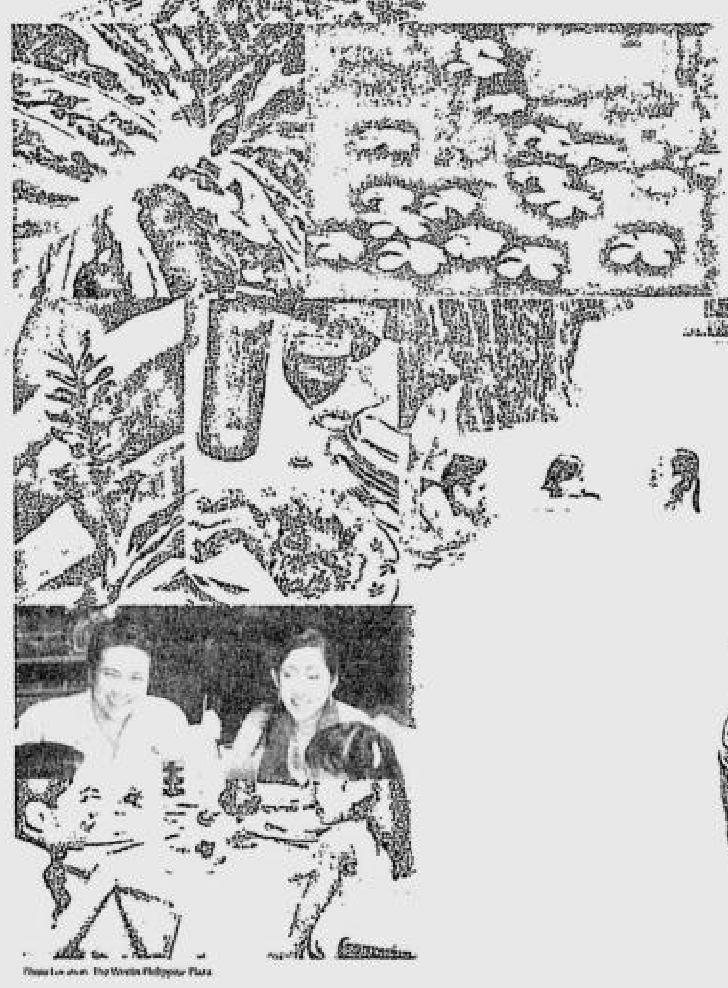

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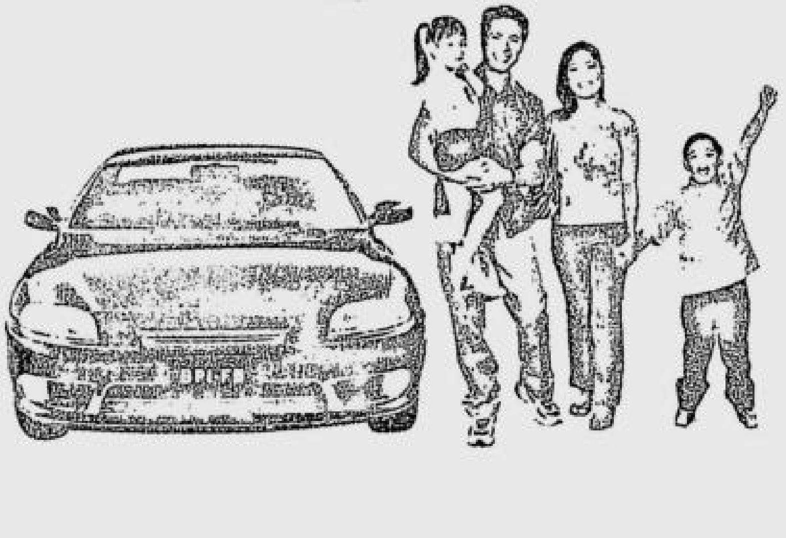

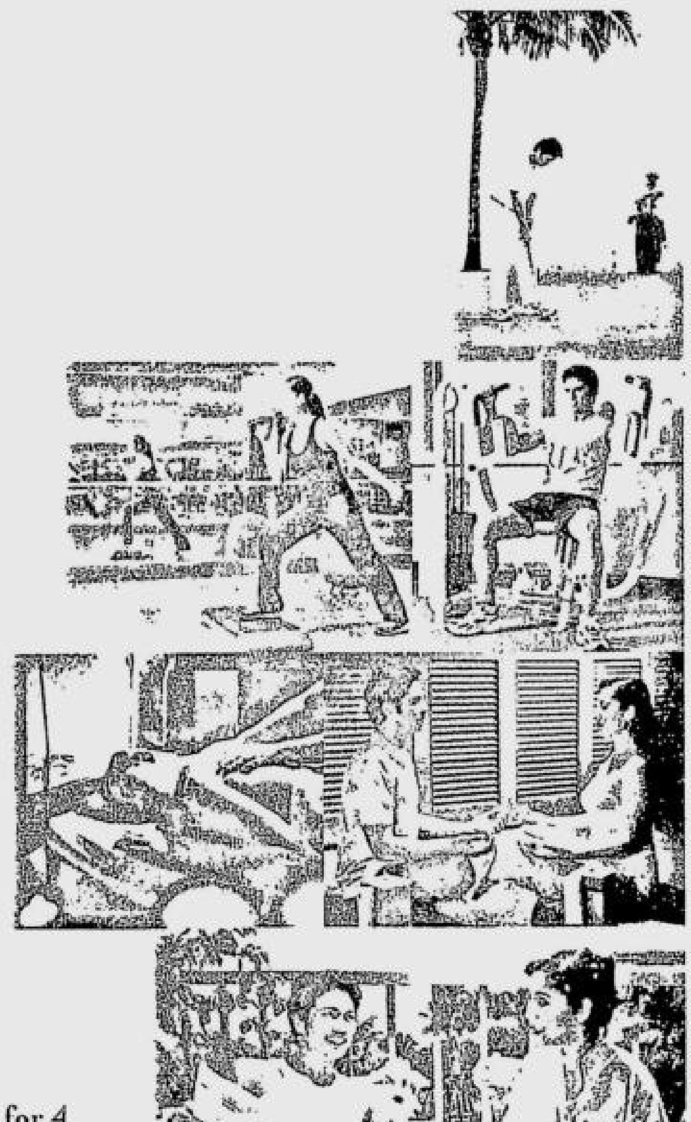

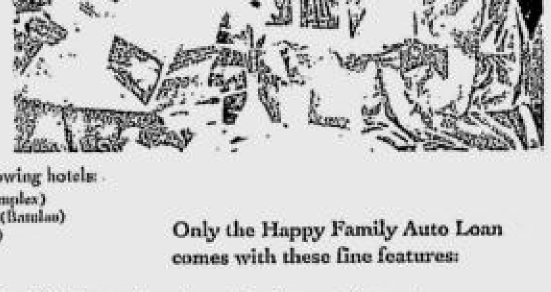

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4. Multi-Purpose Loan (MPL) borrowers are eligible to join the promo provided all the above conditions are met. Purchase of Reconditioned vehicle is still not qualified to join the promo.
6. Clients have to choose only one (1) from the two (2) types of Incredible Indulgence Luxury Packages. Choices are as follows:
   - Family Package - inclusive of an overnight stay with breakfast and dinner for a family of four (two adults and two kids 12 years old and below).
   - Couples Package - inclusive of an overnight stay with breakfast and spa treatment for two adults.
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   - L'Fisher Hotel** (Bacolod City)
   - Marco Hotel** (Cagayan de Oro)
   - Westin Philippine Plaza (CCP Complex)
   - Evercrest Golf and Country Club (Batulao)
   - Waterfront Cebu City (Cebu City)
   - Hotel del Rio** (Iloilo City)
   - The Marco Polo (Davao)
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12. Availment of the Incredible Indulgence Luxury Packages is only until November 30, 2003. Unclaimed packages will be declared void after this date.
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OPINION

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Fallout

EDITORIAL

THE ECONOMIC fallout from last Sunday's military mutiny did not take long to emerge. Four days after the failed coup attempt, the markets were shaking from the aftershocks of the mutiny like the tremors left by an earthquake.

On Tuesday, stocks fell to their lowest in four weeks, reflecting investors' concerns over political and economic uncertainties. The peso also fell to a new four-month low, as nervous businessmen continued buying dollars, indicating erosion of confidence in the country's political stability as it lurches toward the May 2004 presidential elections. The blow delivered by the mutiny to investors' confidence was best expressed by the French and Swiss ambassadors to Manila, who said that the coup left the perception in the international investment community that the country was in a state of permanent turmoil.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address failed to soften the shocks generated by the coup attempt. In her speech during a meeting with military leaders yesterday, the President was not reassuring enough when she said that "the normal course of governance and business has been quickly restored." Her claims flew in the face of the nervousness of the markets, which are the more accurate indicators of whether confidence has returned after the weekend's political disturbance.

The business community and the public need more evidence that the government has regained full control of the political situation than feel-good official statements like those of the President's which tried to minimize the impact and damage inflicted by the rebellion. While Ms Macapagal admitted that the mutiny resulted in "some setback," it takes more than this to restore public confidence that the economic "fundamentals are sound and stable."

The President understated the mutiny's impact, saying that "this is a blip in the screen that does not forebode instability. Our political stability and national security are unimpaired." By describing the rebellion's impact as merely a "blip in the screen," she unwittingly played into the hands of the rebels who are loath to admit that their seizure of the Oakwood Hotel in the Makati Central Business District had a damaging impact on economic growth, which, according to independent assessments in the business community, has been set back one percentage point.

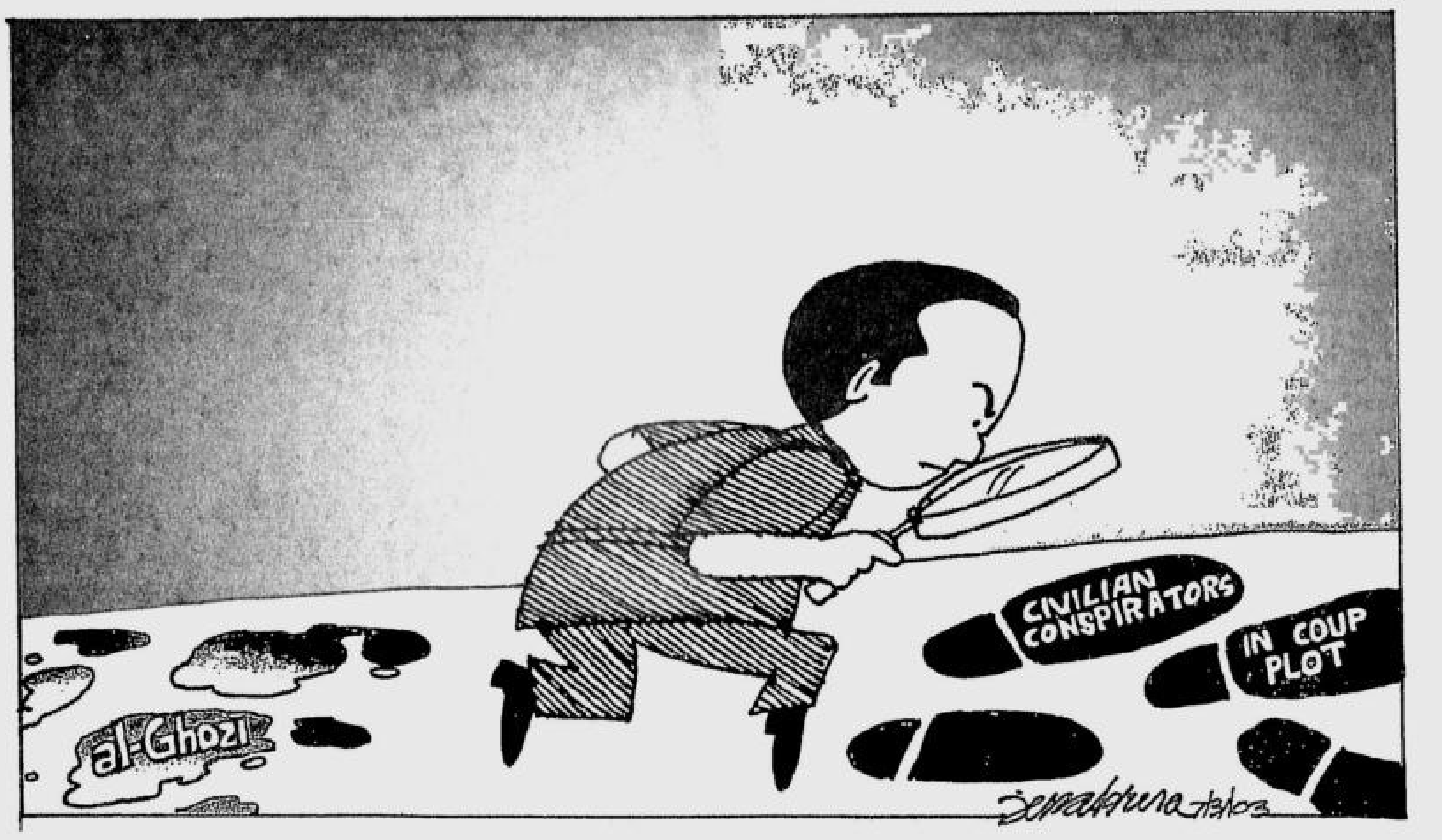
The mutiny took the wind out of the sails of the President's Sona, her last report to the nation before her term ends in mid-2004. All but forgotten was the long catalogue of accomplishments she cited in her speech. The speech spelled out a host of projects completed against targets which had been set out in previous Sonas.

Her Sona last Monday did not lay out new visions. It indicated that there were items on her legislative reform agenda that had to be completed. She disappointed political observers who expected that she would use the occasion to answer the nagging question of whether she would make good her pledge last Dec. 30 that she would not stand for election in 2004 for a full six-year term.

There was little hint in her Sona that the rebellion had an effect either way, on her political plans, which have kept political allies, as well as adversaries, guessing. What is clear is that the Sona's message was pushed to irrelevance by the young officers' rebellion.

While the main theme of the Sona was to summarize the accomplishments of her three years of administration and of her legislative agenda, the speech's highlights were focused on the rebellion. Ms Macapagal announced the formation of a commission on inquiry to investigate the roots of the mutiny, including the grievances which the rebels said triggered the rebellion. But what drew most attention was her emphatic statements that the full force of the law would be applied on the mutinous officers. She vowed that they would be jailed, a departure from the lenient treatment given to officers who had led a number of coup attempts during the administration of President Corazon Aquino.

The Sona was delivered in the shadow of the declaration the previous day of a state of rebellion. The speech's emphasis was on demonstrating that her administration has achieved her goal of establishing a "strong republic," which was sorely tested by the mutiny.



Guingona exposes Agile plot in Cha-Cha

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

NOW that the coup exertions are over until the next one, we should all stop the finger-pointing and go back to work to repair the economy that has been damaged by one night of adventurism. And we should wake up to a cancer in our midst that is more dangerous than all the disgruntled military officers put together. It is there like a rot weakening the foundation of our country, or like a venomous serpent in our garden tempting us with financial aid and technical advice.

I am referring to that foreign-funded lobby group behind many anti-Filipino legislation and decisions. That group, Agile, is funded by the Americans but uses Filipino dummies as fronts. Its motive is to influence policy decisions favorable to American and European business, at the expense of Filipinos.

The most insidious and dangerous of its activities was exposed by Vice President Teofisto Guingona at a Kapihan sa Manila forum a few weeks ago. Agile, he said, is behind the effort to amend the Constitution. Why? So that the provision on the national patrimony can be removed from our Constitution.

The provision bans foreigners from owning land in the Philippines; limits participation by foreigners in enterprises engaged in the exploitation of natural resources to 40 percent (60 percent must be owned by Filipinos); bans foreigners from owning mass media companies; limits foreign equity in public utility companies. It was this provision that prevented the sale of the Manila Hotel to a Malaysian corporation. It is this constitutional provision that prevents foreigners from owning vast tracts of land, digging up our mountains to extract mineral ores, and plundering our seas. It is this provision that prevents foreigners from practically owning our country and making us Filipinos serfs and servants in our own land.

Remove that provision in the Constitution and we would be like the biblical Hebrews in Egypt, mere slaves of the Egyptians. The only difference is that the Hebrews were in the land of Egypt, whereas we would be in our own land but lorded over by foreigners.

That is why, Guingona said, he is strongly against amending the Constitution, and especially by members of Congress constituted into a constitutional assembly. Members of Congress are susceptible to temptation, especially from tempters with smiling faces and bearing gifts like Agile.

Do the congressmen who are ardently pushing Cha-cha, know about this Agile plot? Guingona was asked.

Apparently some of them do not only know but are part of the conspiracy. When asked about it, the congressmen's reply was: "*Pagusapan pa naman 'yan.* (We're still going to discuss that.) The con-ass will decide." That's as good as admitting that it is a done deal.

Guingona revealed that American and European business interests are lobbying for the removal of that patrimony provision in our Constitution. That would be worse than parity, he said.

If you will recall, the parity amendment gave to Americans rights equal to the Filipinos' to exploit our natural resources. But that was only for a limited number of years, and that is now over. But the amendment Agile is pushing for will make that contemptible arrangement permanent.

I know there would be gullible and colonial-minded Filipinos who would welcome an American takeover of the Philippines (I think the Statehood Movement still exists) because then we would have snow and white Christmases, apple and orange and chestnut trees would grow in our backyards, we would all be American citizens and speak slang English and receive our pay in dollars, but most of us won't be owning the residential lots and homes we live in. The foreigners will. We wouldn't be able to afford them as prices soar because the whole country would be open to foreign buyers. Most of us would be mere employees working for the foreigners or, worse, probably squatters in our own land. Will we allow that to happen?

Maybe many congressmen don't realize that, in amending the Constitution, they are only thinking of themselves: removing term limits so they can run for public office indefinitely, shifting to a parliamentary system so they can have full control of the government and allow the ambitious among them to become chief executive without going through a presidential election. Removing the patrimony provision may not have entered the minds of some of them.

But when you open the Constitution to amendments, anything can happen. And when Agile is there pulling strings, the worst can happen.

* * *

The worst is already happening at the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Agile wants the BIR privatized, the only other nation besides Peru that would do this. Having a private company, whose motive is profit, collecting our taxes is preposterous and fraught with danger.

But a bill to that effect, the Nara bill, is already pending in Congress. And to justify it, Agile and their dummies lobbying for the bill, are picturing the present BIR as a "den of thieves." And to prove and dramatize it, three BIR and one Customs officials were accused recently of ill-gotten wealth.

Don't swallow that hook, line and sinker. Wait until the investigation is completed. For that premature condemnation is only a part of another Agile project: the murder of the BIR to give way to a private company.

Rhyme and reason

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

(*Conclusion*)

THE JUNIOR officers and rank and file of the Armed Forces of the Philippines have not lacked for reasons to complain even in Fidel Ramos' and Erap's time. The same spectacular gap in lifestyles between generals and foot soldiers was there. The same failure of government to improve the plight of the masses was there. But they did not mount a coup then. What is the difference between then and now?

The difference is that now the military has been thrust back into the limelight. Courtesy of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's "war against terror."

That is what makes the Macapagal administration unlike that of Ramos and Erap and very much like that of Cory. I was listening to the commentary of the analysts on TV, and everyone was saying the weekend coup attempt seemed different from the ones that happened during Cory's time. But that difference is superficial. The similarity between Cory's time and now is far more solid than they think. That has little to do with the fact that both leaders are women, though I wouldn't put it past military groups, junior or senior, rebellious or docile, to consider that. The real similarity lies in the context.

The military during Cory's time was a key player in national life. In part because of its participation in Edsa—it projected itself as the critical factor there—and largely because of its lead role in the counterinsurgency drive. Putting down the insurgency was the overriding preoccupation of the Cory government, and it did so incontinently, including using vigilantes and paramilitary troops.

GMA's "anti-terrorism" campaign pretty much replicates it. It is a pale replica only in the sense that whereas Cory's insurgents were real, GMA's terrorists are not. Cory did not have to invent the threat to the republic, GMA does, and has. But there is nothing pale about GMA using the full might of the military as well for her purpose. The entire thrust of her governance since 9/11 has been to put the country on martial footing. The military has been the main beneficiary of that.

As ye sow, so shall ye reap. The problem with "unsheathing the sword of war," as Cory put it then, is that the sword tends to refuse to be sheathed again. It is even tempted to be mightier than the pen. You look closely at the complaints of Antonio Trillanes and company, and you'll see that they are not unlike the ones raised by RAM and YOU more than a decade ago. They do not just have to do with corruption in the military hierarchy, they have to do with the apparent betrayal by the civilian authority of the saviors of society, who are the combat troops, and the people themselves whom they serve. The subtext is: "We are the ones keeping the republic safe from its enemies, yet we are being treated shabbily. But we are not the only ones being treated so, the masses are too."

The premise there is that the military, or an idealistic group in it, has earned the right to judge government. That is the praetorian mentality.

Ferdinand Marcos also turned the military into a praetorian guard (he was the first to do so) but he made sure he kept the reins on it. He did so by fomenting distrust, envy and disunity in its ranks, not least by making trusted generals overstay, even as he used it for his own ends. Even then, he worried no end about a coup, and met with one in the end. GMA gambled with no aces, and lost badly.

Commenting on the coup last weekend, Ramos suggested that it was time the AFP officers were "indoctrinated" again on the wisdom of civilian supremacy. But it will take more than classroom or barracks lessons in humility to hypnotize the troops into believing it. That is so because the lessons will be refuted by the reality

The impact of GMA's "war against terror" has been profound and life-altering. It's not just that it has brought the military back to power, it is that it has rammed a martial culture upon us. The rhetoric is martial, the style is martial, the sensibility is martial. Jaime Cardinal Sin is completely wrong to suggest we rally around the GMA government against militarists because that government is dedicated to peace and democracy. The GMA government is militarist, and is dedicated to war and fascist methods. The militarist sensibility reached its tragicomic apotheosis shortly after GMA's visit to the United States this year when she and her generals began gloating about the arms George Bush would presumably be sending this way like children reveling in newfound toys.

Quite apart from that, the "war against terror" has sanctioned extra-legal measures, not unlike the use of vigilantes and paramilitary troops of Cory's time. In some parts of Mindanao, the vigilantes and paramilitary troops are back in business. That "war against terror" has allowed GMA to use emergency powers and "wartime" shortcuts, such as herding villagers into refugee centers. All this has made the abnormal normal, imparting upon the nation a siege mentality. What we have is an undeclared but widely understood, or felt, state of emergency, where anxiety, fear and paranoia are actively spread and promoted.

All this has taken place alongside an earth-shaking development in the United States, one that has removed the final barrier against a coup or a declaration of martial law. That is the rise of George Bush and Donald Rumsfeld, the equivalent of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger three decades ago. The last two were also what made Marcos' martial law—which was a coup, from above—possible. Nixon and Kissinger didn't mind propping up military rule so long as it was pro-American. Bush and Rumsfeld can be counted upon for the same thing. They won't mind propping up military rule (Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's comes to mind) so long as it is pro-American.

That is a coup waiting to happen.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Tarnished idealism

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SEN. Gregorio Honasan, in a privilege speech last Wednesday, described the officers who staged the mutiny in Makati last Sunday as "young, idealistic and our best and brightest." He kept repeating the term "idealistic" as he cited the grievances of the young officers, such as their low pay and the ill-equipped army that cannot even buy good boots for its soldiers. That would have sat well with the people, except that the discovery of very expensive equipment in the rebels' possession in Oakwood unmistakably showed that they had access to a huge funding support. In turn, the discovery of identical arms, ammunitions and various paraphernalia in the house of former President Estrada's deputy executive secretary, Ramon Cardenas, and Erap's mistress, Laarni Enriquez, tends to implicate the Estrada camp in the mutiny. All these developments have tarnished the young officers' idealism.

* * *

It is now beginning to look like they were manipulated by a political group that capitalized on their grievances, just like in the May 1, 2001 episode, when it agitated the very poor sectors in Metro Manila to storm Malacañang. The manipulation is quite understandable, given the avowed objective of the opposition to be fully restored to power. But what is difficult to understand is how these officers could be so naïve. They acted as if they had no brains or political judgment at all. For instance, how could they have been deluded into thinking that other military units would join their mutiny or that tens of thousands of people would rally behind them? Edsa I and II should have told them that people rally behind a rebellion only if a serious cause or causes warrant it, as in the refusal of the dictator Marcos to step down after 20 years or the corruption of the Estrada administration and the Senate's obstinate refusal to consider evidence at the impeachment trial. The citizens know that if they are unhappy with the political leadership, it can be changed in the next elections.

* * *

A lot of questions are being raised as to why some military officers can be so easily manipulated by rabble-rousing demagogues and whether this is the fault of their education at the Philippine Military Academy. The PMA has to look deep into its resources for answers. More importantly, the gripes of the young mutineers have to be addressed since many of them are valid. But it must be pointed out that Honasan was wrong in equating the rebels' action with those of griping bureaucrats. He said that the rebels were only in their uniforms and armed with their "tools of trade." It is deplorable and alarming that after eight years in the Senate, Honasan couldn't see that the military cannot use their "tools of trade" to support their complaints, for those are deadly, i.e., guns and bombs such as those they planted in Makati, which could have killed many people and destroyed billions in property if they had gone off.

* * *

Now that the government has set in motion the court martial of the mutiny leaders, there are pleas for clemency from relatives and sympathizers who point out that the officers are young and they didn't know what they were doing. But the rebels' manifesto, which they supposedly planned to sign in blood just like the Katipuneros of old and called "The Last Revolution" by "Filipino heroes," revealed that the core group meant to seize political power by force. The last paragraphs of the manifesto said that the "actual revolution" starts with "the assumption of power" through means "not within the ambit of the constitutional framework." Once the power has been assumed, "all pockets of resistance will be crushed" and all power will be turned over to a "National Recovery Council" composed of 15 men and women, with a chair acting as head of state. Just who this chair would be is not difficult to guess.

While listening to the pronouncements of the rebel leader, Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes, many recognized the same messianic complex of the Honasan group of a generation ago. In fact, an officer was quoted in the papers yesterday as noting, after reading the rebel manifesto, how much Trillanes sounded like his idol.

* * *

In his privilege speech, Honasan made a big case of invoking the protection of the Senate where he occupies a seat, as he sought refuge from the charges of complicity and even masterminding the mutiny, and possible arrest, if the government is able to build a case against him. He said this issue "involves the dignity, the independence and the integrity of the Senate" and he reminded the chamber that "extra-constitutional exercise" was now "a thing of the past" as far as he was concerned since he had been "already rehabilitated." He vowed not to betray the Senate's trust.

Honasan also disclaimed any association with the Magdalo mutineers, saying his platform for his presidential ambition, the "National Recovery Program" (NRP), is open to everyone. But he failed to tell his colleagues whether during his meetings with the young officers he had categorically cautioned them against resorting to violence. Moreover, he dismissed as "coincidence" the presence in Makati of his followers carrying NRP banners, and said that the fact that members of the Guardians Brotherhood, the organization that launched his presidential candidacy some weeks back, "found themselves in the same place, in the same streets at the same time" is "something we cannot control."

Honasan will also have to explain the report in Today that LBC shipping documents showed that communications equipment found in Oakwood were shipped by his NRP care of an administrative officer of Fort San Felipe.

Time to laugh

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SUNDAY afternoon, I got a text message from an anonymous sender. The reason the government hadn't yet moved against the "Magdalo" mutineers, it said, was that they were waiting for Chuck Norris to plane in. Bruce Willis was already inside, and Steven Seagal was hiding in the kitchen. But where was Ah-nuld?

Yes, we Pinoys are at it again, squeezing the last drop of humor and laughter from the latest absurd "blip and hiccup" in our long history of absurdity. Only in the Philippines, amid rumors of a coup attempt, do soldiers scramble to secure not the military headquarters or the presidential palace, but hotels and shopping malls. Military rebels seem to have learned a valuable lesson from Gringo and Company: When mounting a putsch, it's best to do it where there's room service.

It also seems that the majority of the female populace was glued to our TV sets not just to follow current events, but to debate who, between Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and Capt. Gerardo Gambala had more "*pogi* points." It still seems to be a toss-up between the lean, hungry poet looks of the PMA topnotcher and the pudgy, be-dimpled Navy lieutenant. Though I don't know, there might be women out there with a thing or two for the pock-marked, hot-tempered Capt. Milo Maestrecampo.

Still, how about Trillanes, huh? At the height of the standoff in Oakwood, he was all bluster about his and his men's willingness "to die for our principles." But the next day, facing a transfer from the Fort Bonifacio grandstand to the Isafp quarters, he was almost hysterical over the radio, denouncing the "treason" of the President and airing fears about Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus' plans for him. So much for military martyrdom.

* * *

BUT we were kidding around, right? About the most humorous "commentary" on Sunday's events was circulated by e-mail and takes the form of an open letter to Trillanes. It was written in Filipino, so I'm providing the English translation of excerpts, followed by the original, since so many things, especially the humor, tends to get lost in translation.

My thanks to the anonymous source for this funny "take" on what, when we stop to think about it, was really a frightening episode. No wonder we'd rather make jokes than dwell on such could-have-beens.

Now to the letter:

"I wrote this letter to praise you for your bravery in letting the whole Filipino nation know about corruption in the government. Long live! *(Sinulat ko ang liham na ito para puriin ka sa iyong kagitingan na ipaalam sa buong sambayanang Pilipino ang kabulukang nangyayari sa ating gobyerno. Mabuhay ka)*.

"But the only problem is, we all know about that, Captain Trillanes *(Ang problema nga lang, alam na namin lahat iyon,* Kapitan Trillanes).

"You didn't need to plant bombs and pose in your fatigues just to let the public know how crooked our government is *(Hindi na ninyo kailangan pang magtanim ng bomba at magpapogi sa inyong mga* fatigues *para lang ipaalam sa buong madla na may mga katiwalian sa gobyerno)*.

* * *

"YOUR news about Secretary Reyes selling bullets to the rebels, why, that's old news. We ordinary folks knew that all along. Why? *('Yung sinasabi mong nagbebenta si* Secretary Reyes *ng bala sa mga rebelde, aba, lumang balita na 'yan. Alam na naming mga ordinaryong tao yan. Bakit?)*

"Sidelines are already a Filipino tradition, right? In my office, there are people selling slippers, beads, tocino, tapa, muffins and bags *(Kaugalian na nating mga* Pilipino *ang mag-sideline di ba? Sa opisina nga namin may nagtitinda ng tsinelas*, beads, tocino, tapa, muffins *saka* bags).

"As for your news that GMA ordered the bombing in Davao, we also know that already. Captain Trillanes, don't you know how gossipy we Filipinos are? Don't you think we all know about the goings-on in government? *('Yun namang sinasabi mong si* GMA *ang nag-utos ng pambobomba sa* Davao, *alam na rin naming mga* Pilipino *'yon. Kaw naman,* Kapitan Trillanes, *sa pagka-tsismoso nating mga* Pilipino, *sino ba naman hindi nakakaalam na gobyerno gumagawa ng mga kalokohang 'yon?)*

"Plaza Miranda, Jabidah Massacre, Ninoy's assassination, Rizal Day bombings, and other outrages, we all know the government was behind them. We aren't stupid, you know! As those from Assumption would say, 'We're not like *tanga naman...(*Plaza Miranda, Jabidah Massacre, *pagpatay kay* Ninoy, Rizal Day bombings, *at kung anu-ano pang kababalaghan, alam na naming gobyerno gumagawa. Hindi naman kami istupido noh! Sabi nga ng mga taga-*Assumption, 'We're not like *tanga naman...*")

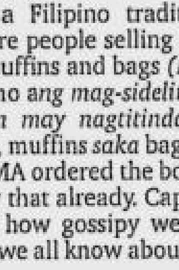
* * *

"HUUU...if I know, you just wanted to enjoy the Oakwood spa because your complexion has been ruined by the mosquitoes in Basilan. You should've just told me, I know of a cheap spa on Quezon Avenue, with 'extra' services. (Huuu...if I know, *gusto mo lang magpa-*spa *sa* Oakwood *kasi sira na ang iyong kutis dahil sa kagat ng lamok sa* Basilan. *Dapat sinabi mo na lang sa akin, may murang* spa *dyan sa* Quezon Avenue, *may 'extra' pa.)*

"You left us hanging. You even made *pogi* points with the girls because you look so good in fatigues. But the thing is, you didn't die for your principles. You just cried and hugged each other. (*Nabitin kami. Pogi points ka pa sa mga* girls *kasi ang guapo mo sa* fatigue. *'Yun nga lang*, you didn't die for your principles. *May paiyak-iyak* and hug *pa kayo)*.

"That's why the Abu Sayyaf just laugh at you, you have soft hearts, you're overly dramatic. Is that how you behave in Basilan? When the shooting starts, you just hug each other and weep? God, how embarrassing to the enemy. (*Kaya kayo tinatawanan ng* Abu Sayyaf, *malalambot ang puso ninyo, madrama kayo masyado. Ganyan ba kayo sa* Basilan? *'Pag rat-ratan na, nagyayakapan na lang kayo at umiiyak?* God, it's so *nakakahiya naman* to the enemy.)"

Mountain folk, missionaries and mutineers



HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE SOUND of bamboo and brass musical instruments, native hoots and howls filled the air when close to a hundred representatives of indigenous peoples (IPs) and missionaries gathered for a three-day reflection a few days ago in Quezon City. It was a time for revelry and reflection.

That was about the same time military mutineers were hatching their plan to take hostage the posh Oakwood in Makati and this country as well. Here's my two cents on that short-lived military melodrama. These supposedly bright and idealistic officers and foot soldiers may have legit issues to raise, but to me, using armed force reeks of arrogance. Why, we ordinary civilians have grievances too. We're not taking anybody hostage, we're exhausting all means so government would heed our demands.

This episode reminded me of the movie "The Rock" where disgruntled Gulf War veterans took over Alcatraz, the rocky former island prison and now a tourist destination, in San Francisco Bay. (The Rock is worth a visit, by the way.) The mutineers took the tourists as hostages and threatened to blow up San Francisco with long-distance weapons if their demands were not met. A grizzly Alcatraz alumnus (Sean Connery), retired in another prison, and nerd scientist (Nicholas Cage) had to be sent there to prevent a holocaust. Here was a heart-pounding action film.

Not the recent military misadventure. It did nothing to my heart and my breathing. Nobody believes that that was all there was to it—just grievances. Early in the day, their leader said they were not staging a coup d'etat. *Ano raw?* Good thing his mother intervened.

What these bomb-planters did was maniacal, they were not unlike the mall-variety hostage taker who pokes a knife into someone's neck in order to land in the tabloids. These adventurists ought to learn from the hardy mountain folk and indigenous people who have even more serious issues to raise against all of us. And yet, look, how organized, how calm, how deliberate are their moves to amplify their demands.

The occasion I was referring to in the first paragraph before I was interrupted was the gathering of representatives of indigenous groups and missionaries "to celebrate the giftedness of Blessed Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz in promoting dialogue and life-giving relationships among peoples of different cultures and religious thus building a communion of peoples."

Janssen, founder of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit and their contemplative counterpart, and Freinademetz, an SVD missionary in China in the late 19th century, are going to be declared saints with a capital "S" in Rome in October.

Assembly participants included four major Philippine indigenous groups—Mangyan, Aeta, Ifugao and Tinguian—and their subtribes. The assembly was held in Quezon City.

Sr. Victricia Pascasio said the occasion "provided an opportunity for different indigenous peoples served by the missionaries to meet each other and be enriched by each other's culture." This was also a venue for sharing the different aspects of their life and to strengthen solidarity.

For the church workers, Pascasio said the occasion would help deepen their understanding of the life and cultures of indigenous peoples.

Fr. Cirilo Ortega, SVD, himself a member of the Tinguian group, spoke on "The National Situation, Globalization and its Effects on Philippine Indigenous Communities." He cited the IPs' constant cycle of dialogues and encounters with nature manifested in songs and dances imitating animals and other living things. These rituals were ways to commune with supernatural beings.

Alas, Ortega rued, the effects of the new political and economic order are wreaking havoc on indigenous communities. Dams, commercial and illegal logging, mega-tourism, the introduction of cash crops and militarization are affecting the IPs' way of life. The challenge is for the IPs and the missionaries to study the Constitution as well as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra) and other laws in order that the IPs' ancestral domain is protected. Both communal stewardship as against private ownership should be properly understood and the IPs' self-identity and self-determination should be respected.

Thoroughly discussed was the delineation of ancestral domains that has become confused and overlapping because of new regulations. Justino Belino Jr., a Tinguian of the Maeng subtribe and a town councilor in Abra, confirmed that land boundaries have become problematic, even made worse by mining operations and dams. But he cited the positive contribution of the Church in "advocacy and giving information."

The Catholic Church through its commission on IPs had indeed lobbied for the passage of the Ipra which recognizes ancestral domain.

Ana Maria Galicia, a 34-year-old Alangan Mangyan and program coordinator in Mindoro Oriental, said she felt good meeting other IPs and realizing that they were not alone. "All of us have common problems regarding ancestral domain," Galicia said. "But I felt strong. We will be there for each other."

The IPs and the missionaries celebrated with a bonfire at night, liturgies and a Mass on the last day. One missionary stressed that proselytizing or baptizing IPs into the Christian faith was never their objective.

A Tinguian likened their existence to that of a seed about to be eaten by a big bird. Said he: "We have to struggle to grow to become big trees."

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Not so bad

YOUNG BLOOD

Ma. Nessa P. Gelvosa

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT all started one lazy Saturday afternoon when I was at home doing nothing. A friend called me up and invited me to their fishpond. He told me to bring extra clothes in case we decided to take a swim in the river nearby. My friends and I agreed to go, anticipating a wonderful time ahead.

We had to walk for about 15 minutes from the main road before we got to our destination. I really appreciated what I saw around me. I loved the lush green trees, standing strong and showing off their extraordinary beauty. I loved the bright blue sky above. I loved the smell and the colors of the flowers we passed by. I loved listening to the birds chirping from a distance. They were all beautiful and, ever since I was a little kid, I have loved beautiful things.

What I saw soothed my senses. They took away the tiredness I felt during that walk.

When we reached the fishpond, we all hurried up the tree house to eat and rest for a while. From afar we could see the splendid Linungaw cave. The wind blowing upon our faces kept us awake and energetic.

We had a lot of fun riding a boat. After the boat ride, we tried the raft. We also played with the dogs and other animals. After that, we swam in the river and we were refreshed by the cooling effect of the water.

On our way home, we took another route. We followed the river upstream. And guess what greeted us? We were so shocked upon seeing all the garbage dumped into the river. It looked real bad. It was a big eyesore.

We were so disappointed. And to think that we had just bathed in the water flowing from that area.

I was feeling itchy as we proceeded. That night the itchiness got worse but I ignored it and went to sleep.

When morning came, there were itchy, red spots all over my legs and arms. I had developed an allergy because of the dirty water in the river.

That experience made me aware of the need to preserve the environment. It made me realize that our Mother Earth is suffering. It faces a big problem that needs immediate solution.

That experience strengthened my love for nature. I started getting involved in cleanliness programs and other actions to solve this global dilemma.

From that single bad experience, I have learned a lot. I have learned that people's neglect of the environment threatens not only nature but their lives as well and the lives of the succeeding generations. Because of this, I believe we should all be dedicated and committed to achieving the common goal of preserving our environment so that we will all enjoy the good things that it brings.

Now when I think about that experience, I would say it wasn't so bad after all.

Ma. Nessa P. Gelvosa, 16, is a senior at Jacinto P. Elpa High School in the Caraga Region. This essay was the First Place Winner in "Youthspeak: Inquirer On-the-Spot Essay Writing Contest" held in Baguio last May.

The call

Mary Gold C. Piñera

IT may either be because of the influence of the people around me or out of my own personal conviction, but young as I am, I deeply feel the need to love our environment.

This love for the environment wasn't innate in me. When I was younger, I really did not care at all. All I cared about was what food I would eat and what game I would play. I was a happy-go-lucky, mischievous, little girl.

But everything changed the day I watched news reports about the flood that claimed so many lives and destroyed so many properties in Ormoc City. At first, I did not care at all. Ormoc was far from Tuguegarao City!

But then, I started asking myself again and again, "Should I not care?" Then I felt as if there was someone calling out to me, crying out for my help, and it was Mother Nature.

The tragedy that happened in Ormoc is just one of the many reasons we should start taking good care of our environment. By now, we should have known that floods are so destructive, and yet we are not moving to prevent it. Trees that are cut should be replaced, because unless this is done, we do not only cut the trees but also the bright future ahead of us.

We have an environment to save. Who will act if we don't? Who will start if we don't? The future depends on all of us. We should grab the opportunity that is right in front of us. If I could love our environment, why can't you? We do not have much time to replenish the grandeur that nature once possessed. We should start acting now. If all of us would act to create a marvelous world that we can pass on to our children and our children's children, then it can be done.

God gave us the world, confident that we would nurture it till the end. It is our responsibility to save what He has given us.

Without our environment, what would we be? Where would we be?

I don't want to say that we should stop economic progress just to preserve our natural resources. What I am saying is that we are the ones who made the world what it is today—topsy-turvy, denuded and unhealthy. So isn't it just proper that we be the ones to make our world again spic and span, lush and healthful?

We can all make a difference. All it takes is to start caring a[illegible]ing. We should save Mother Nature as fast as we can because we don't know when God will take it away from us. We only realize the worth of something when it is already gone.

Let us be fair to Mother Nature. She has cared for us from the beginning of time. She has given us the resources we need to sustain our lives.

Let us not think that it is impossible to restore the beauty of our environment because nothing is impossible. Though it will be difficult to achieve, we should believe that we can do it.

We may be young, but we should care. The time to act is now!

Mary Gold C. Piñera, 15, is a junior at the Cagayan National High School. This essay won Third Place in "Youthspeak: Inquirer On-the-Spot Essay Writing Contest" held last May in Baguio City.

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Vintage recordings

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE CASSETTE'S cover design was almost too simple, but the title caught my eye: "Kamuning: A Vintage Recording." Beneath the title was the name: Atang de la Rama.

The tape, produced by Tawid Publications, is a compilation of Atang recordings dating back to the 1920s. As far as I know, it's a first for the Philippines, and I hope not the last.

Thanks to digital technologies, Tawid was able to transfer recordings from the private collection of Nestor R. Vera Cruz (Yesteryear Music Gallery). The product is quite good, with crisp sounds and a bit of the scratching sounds that give it the sense of an old record.

The cassette has 10 Atang de la Rama recordings, four of which are duets with Vicente Ocampo. I thought the songs would be mainly sentimental *kundiman* but it turned out the selections are much more varied, the songs quite playful in the *bodabil* (vaudeville) tradition.

An amusing piece, "Kung Umibig ang Matatanda" pleads the case for older lovers. The song starts out with Atang teasing Ocampo, presumably an older man, as having "*malambot na baywang* (a soft waist)," to which Ocampo retorts, "*Matigas pa...* (It's still hard...)" He then goes on to point out the advantages of loving and being loved by an older person. One line says it all: "*walang hibok, walang salita, lahat nakukuha sa gawa* (no flattery, no words, all's achieved through action)."

The cassette gives us glimpses into what Filipino society was like in the 1920s.

Most intriguing are the sexual innuendoes in several of the songs. I've already mentioned the play on the words "soft" and "hard." One entire piece, "Bibingka" (Rice Cake), has Atang and Ocampo exchanging challenges to have a taste of Atang's *bibingka*, a sexual metaphor with the singing stopping at strategic words. It looks like Sex Bomb and other singers of that genre aren't really that original—we had "sexy songs" back in the 1920s, together, I am sure, with the usual prudes bristling in indignation.

The songs have social commentaries as well. "*Paganito at Paganyan*" (Like This, Like That) pokes fun at Filipino habits. Atang chides the Filipino for imitating everything in Western movies: We learn that after Charlie Chaplin films came around, our men began sporting moustaches, à la Chaplain.

She sings, too, of how Filipinos tended to 'live beyond their means, ending up pawning stuff at Tambunting. Now, doesn't all that resonate into the 21st century?

I can assure you the cassette won't appeal only to older people. I played the cassette to a group of UP students and they were totally captivated. Without my coaching, they were noting how words had changed in their meanings, or even catching words no longer used these days, for example, "*hibok*." (We had to check Panganiban's 1971 Tagalog dictionary, which defines it as "persuasion by flattery.")

I know that part of the cassette's appeal is the element of novelty, one which could easily wear off. But I also suspect that if we had more vintage recordings, we just might get more Filipinos interested, especially if radio stations pick up. It's ironic that AM radio stations play many old songs, but these are all from the West.

Other countries have long cashed in on the nostalgia market, reproducing old records. In China, you can go into any music store and ask for "old music" and they will show you vintage recordings of Atang's contemporaries.

Beyond nostalgia though, I think it is important to have vintage recordings as a way of honoring our great artists. I've been following the controversies surrounding the latest selection of National Artists and feel that we're wasting too much time griping. I'm more concerned about how little we do for the artists once they receive their awards. What we need to be doing is preserving and reproducing their works, and making sure each succeeding generation of Filipinos knows who those artists are, and why they were chosen.

When I asked my students who Atang de la Rama was, most of them had blank faces. As I explained her rather colorful life, you could see the students' faces perking up as they realized that Atang was honored for her contributions to popular culture, with a mixed repertoire of the *sarsuela, kundiman* and vaudeville songs.

Talking about Atang also allows us to explain why she is a National Artist and Sex Bomb isn't. Atang was a true artist, singing from her heart and her soul. It's not surprising she also had songs with social commentaries; in her personal life she was also an activist, and married the fiery labor leader and poet Amado V. Hernandez.

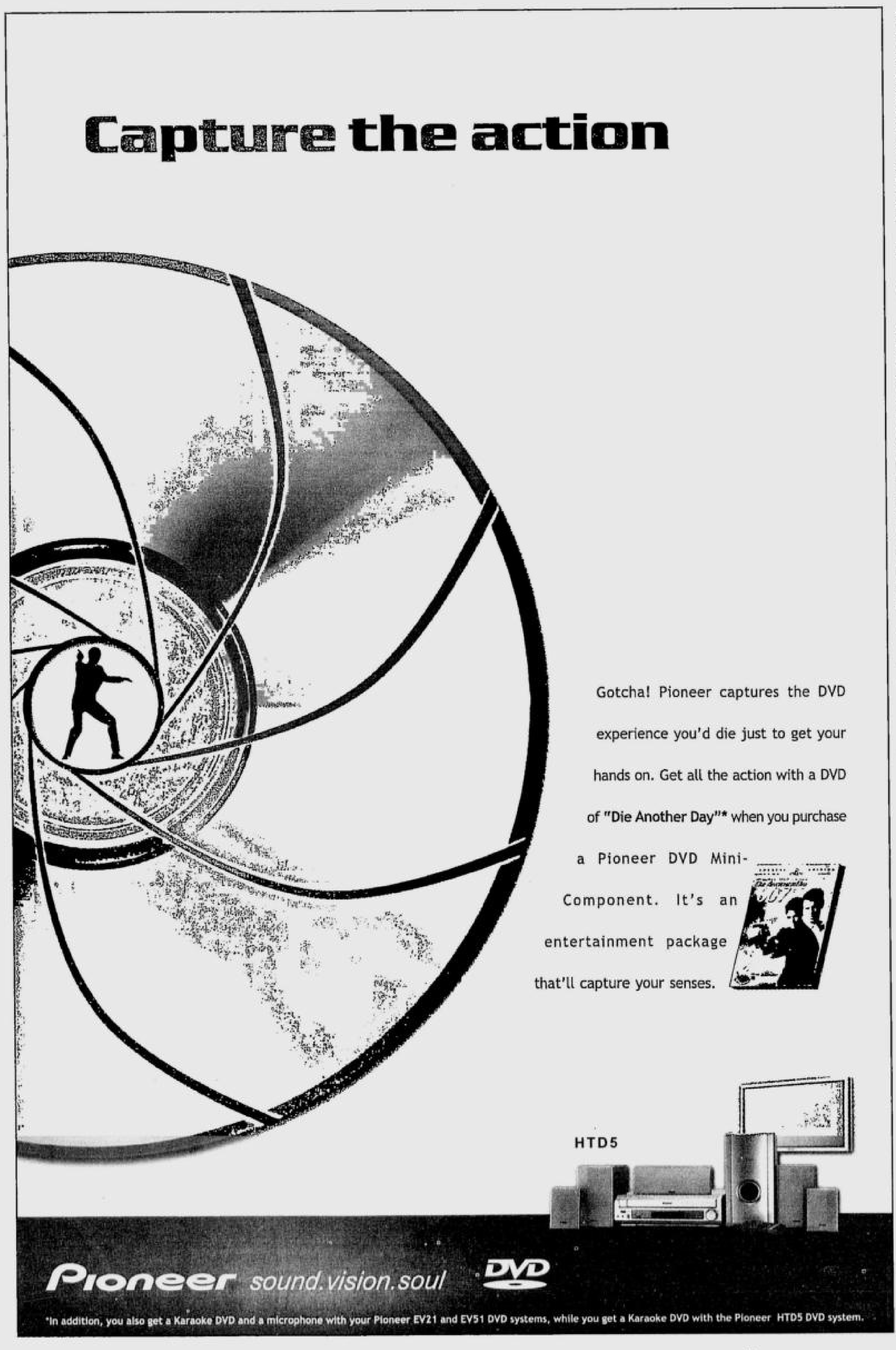
After buying the cassette at Tradewinds bookstore in Intramuros, I called the cassette's producers to ask if they had other vintage recordings. Tawid's Melissa Moran sadly explained Atang was the only one. They do have recordings of Raul Sunico, doing old songs on the piano, but the Tawid people have been hard-pressed to find original vintage music.

Today's column is a call then: If there are readers out there with old Filipino records; you might want to share them with Tawid. Perhaps corporations can take this up as well. ABS-CBN is celebrating its 50th anniversary and it could make a lasting contribution helping to get old recordings going, not just of music but of old films. Just last week in the United States I noticed how black and white TV series like "I Love Lucy" and "Twilight Zone" have been transferred to DVD, and were selling quite briskly.

The Atang tape is hard to find in commercial outlets, a reflection of the still limited market for such recordings. Readers who are interested can call Tawid (428-0578). Or you can write them at tawid@i-manila.com.ph.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net



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Gringo back to his old ways

I DISTINCTLY remember that in an interview many months ago, Sen. Gregorio Honasan refused to give his comments on the coup attempts that he led in the late 1980s. He simply said that the past was past and that we should not dwell on it. He obviously did not wish to bring back to memory his inglorious role in the economic setbacks that the country suffered due to his selfish, vain and ruinous assault on our democracy.

When he ran for office and won, we believed that he had turned his back on his lurid past. But now it seems that he is a party to the illegal cabals that disgruntled young officers are organizing.

I hope and pray that the next elections will see his pretensions of responsible and principled leadership dashed to pieces.

—RENE TORRES,
Makati City,
rentorres@yahoo.com

Priestly celibacy unnecessary

I HAVE been somewhat amused while following the debate in your paper about the celibacy of the clergy.

It was first St. Paul who advocated the single state for Christians, so that they could be free to be totally devoted to the work of their Master. From there it developed into the observance of chastity within marriage and permanent virginity, and then into the monastic principle.

The Eastern Orthodox and Catholic Churches have followed different paths when it comes to the marital state of their clergy. Catholics demand that all their clergy be celibate, and the Orthodox Church asks this of just their bishops. Reformed Churches, including the Anglicans, allow all members of the clergy to marry.

An American critic of your editorial declared that there is no reason to believe married clergy are less prone to sex scandals than the celibate. Perhaps no statistical study has yet been done but I would like to make two points.

First, a major difference (this struck me when I first arrived) between the front-page headlines of the INQUIRER and those of my daily broadsheet in England was the far greater prominence given to such scandals involving bishops in this predominantly Catholic country. Perhaps that was an exceptional time but, sad to say, when such scandals are reported in the British press, they generally relate to bishops and, more often, pedophile priests of the Catholic Church.

Secondly, it stands to reason that compulsory celibacy, depriving men of such an important part of natural life, is found by some unbearable, with tragic consequences.

St. Paul's standpoint was accentuated by his belief in the imminent return of Christ. In such a scenario, marriage was merely a distraction from preparing to meet him. Some 2,000 years on, few share quite such a sense of urgency. And it is possible to combine the deep devotion to Christ of ordination with marriage, particularly when husband and wife share a Christian commitment. Together they bring up their children, and in so doing form a bond with all families in their charge. Together they can offer hospitality and guidance exceeding what they could offer separately.

I should know because my father was an Anglican archdeacon and my mother a trained missionary before they married. Together they exercised a most effective ministry.

So please let us explode the myth that celibacy is necessary for effective priesthood. It is simply a custom that is imposing intolerable pressures on some priests and keeping, no doubt, many suitable candidates from being ordained. It is undoubtedly a sign of deep devotion to the service of Christ, but it should be voluntary. I speak as a single clergyman myself, but one who is not bound by an obligatory, lifelong, celibate vow!

—REV. DR. ANDREW
DAUNTON-FEAR
St. Andrew's Theological
Seminary, P.O. Box 3167,
1099 Quezon City

Cagayan barangays crying out for help

I AM from Manila but I married 29 years ago in Barangay Nannarian, Peñablanca, Cagayan, an isolated area approximately 500 kilometers north of Manila and some 45 minutes' drive from Tuguegarao City. Nature has endowed our barangay and four others with Callao Caves, a well-known tourist attraction, also noted for providing sanctuary to civilians and guerrilla fighters during World War II. Despite this, however, progress in this remote corner of the Philippines has stood still for almost 30 years now. The minimal infrastructure projects that we get piecemeal usually wait for the elections to be done.

During rainy days, when the river rises, our link to the main road leading to Tuguegarao, a 50-meter long concrete bridge, goes under water and becomes impassable. This has been our biggest problem for decades.

We need help to bring our barangays to the mainstream of development. We need a strong, all-season bridge. We need information and learning centers, modern agriculture technologies and more livelihood opportunities.

Given the chance, our young generation will develop a better outlook on life and become responsible and productive members of our national community.

—TONY MENESES,
Armbest Foundation,
Phase 3, 42 Burgos St.,
Pacita Complex 1,
San Pedro Laguna

Bacani an upright bishop

WE are officers and members of the Apostleship of Prayer, Council of Manila, whose membership includes roughly 25,000 devotees of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus coming from about 150 parishes under the Archdiocese of Manila.

We write to you in reaction to recent issues involving Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr., newly appointed bishop of the Diocese of Novaliches. We want you to know how this "scandal" has saddened our entire membership, not because we agree with what has been reported in the media, but because we feel the grave injustice done to a man we've always known to be upright and incapable of the "misbehavior" he has been accused of.

Bishop Bacani has for many years been one of the pillars of the Apostleship of Prayer in the sense that we have always counted on him for spiritual guidance and moral conduct in running the affairs of our community. He has been a regular lecturer in our seminars, conventions and recollections conducted here in Manila and other parts of the country. We have seen the man work in his parish and wherever he has assignments to attend to, and we never had any occasion to question his behavior or manner of dealing with anyone, whether members of his staff, his constituents, or his friends and brothers in the faith.

It pains us deeply to see him become a victim of this scandal that has shocked Filipinos in and outside the Church.

We, therefore, raise our voices in protest against the continued destruction of his name, and in support of his innocence. We pray for prudence on the part of those spreading these rumors to destroy the man. We pray for discernment before totally believing the news releases. We pray for wisdom so that we may understand the what, who and why of this most unwelcome issue. Most of all, we pray for enlightenment so that we may all see the light and rectify whatever wrong statements we have made against this man of God, in the interest of justice and fair play.

May God bless us and grant our prayers so that we may all experience the joy, the peace and the love that goes with the true, the good and the beautiful.

—THE APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER
COUNCIL OF MANILA
AND 265 OTHER SIGNATORIES,
Pius XII Catholic Center,
1175 UN Avenue, Paco, Manila

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Saddam mourns 'martyr' sons in tape

TIKRIT, Iraq—An audio tape purportedly from former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein broadcast on Tuesday vowed to defeat the United States to avenge the deaths of his two sons by US forces.

"I mourn to you the deaths of Uday and Qusay and those who struggled with them... America will be defeated," said the voice on the tape, aired by Dubai-based Al Arabiya television.

"They... died martyrs in the name of jihad (holy war)," the voice said.

The speech was rambling, breaking off in mid-sentence on occasions, but a Reuters correspondent familiar with Saddam's voice said it sounded like him.

Four other "Saddam tapes" have been aired in the past few weeks, but this was the first to refer to the killing of his two sons by US troops last Tuesday in a bloody raid on a villa in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

"Our intelligence community will analyze (the tape) for its authenticity," said White House spokesperson Scott McClellan. "One thing that I can vouch for is that (Saddam's) regime is gone. He is gone from power. And we will find him as well."

The US military said troops hunting Saddam had captured three key figures loyal to the former Iraqi leader, including a top bodyguard, and were closing in on Saddam himself.

Maj. Josslyn Aberle said one of the captured Saddam loyalists put up a brief struggle and that two gunshots were heard as the raid began in the area of Saddam's home town of Tikrit, north of Baghdad. There were no US casualties.

Television pictures filmed through a night vision lens showed a man being escorted from a building by US soldiers, blood seeping through a blindfold.

US troops believe Saddam may be hiding somewhere in the Tigris valley of dusty tomato fields and orchards.

US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said US forces nearly captured Saddam in raids on Monday near Tikrit. *Reuters*

SADDAM Hussein holds his grandson Mustafa, whose father is Saddam's son Qusay, in an undated photo from the private archive of an official photographer for the regime.

REUTERS

Saddam's life or death in own hands—Pentagon

WASHINGTON—Saddam Hussein himself will determine whether he is taken alive or killed if US troops corner him, Pentagon officials said on Tuesday, and the commander on the scene will decide how to proceed based on whether the former Iraqi president puts up a fight.

US troops, including the secretive Task Force 20, are searching for the missing former Iraqi leader in the belief he is hiding somewhere in Iraq. Saddam's sons Uday and Qusay were killed on July 22 in a raid on a house in Mosul by US Army soldiers and Task Force 20.

Asked if the Pentagon had a preference on whether Saddam is taken alive or killed, Lt. Gen. Norton Schwartz, director of operations for the US military's Joint Staff, said the decision would be made by the commander on the ground.

"This is a tactical issue," Schwartz told a briefing at the Pentagon.

"It is a complex matter. It has to do with the character of the target. It has to do with the circumstances. It has to do with the kind of defensive measures taken. And given that array of considerations, the commander on the ground makes a decision on whether it is capture or kill," Schwartz added.

Lawrence Di Rita, special assistant to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, said he was unaware of any discussions between Rumsfeld and US commanders in Iraq over whether the United States would prefer Saddam to be taken alive instead of killed.

If taken alive, he could be put on trial or interrogated about any hidden weapons of mass destruction.

Di Rita said Saddam's two sons decided their own fate by opening fire on the US troops who entered the house in Mosul after receiving a tip from an informant. Di Rita pointed out that most of the 55 most-wanted Iraqis who have been found by US forces have been captured alive. *Reuters*

Attacks seen to go on even if Saddam falls

BAGHDAD—Despite the deaths of Saddam Hussein's sons, some Iraq experts fear attacks against US troops will persist even if the ousted Iraqi leader himself falls into American hands.

Those fears are based on doubts that all the attacks have been personally directed by Saddam and his sons Uday and Qusay. At least 11 American soldiers have been killed by hostile fire since the brothers died in a raid on a house in Mosul on July 22.

The goal of the resistance, some experts fear, has widened beyond restoration of the old regime and may be attracting followers, perhaps including Islamic extremists, who are motivated by their hostility to foreign military occupation.

"It was not all run by Uday and Qusay," Dr. Ahmed al-Baghdadi, an Iraq expert at the University of Kuwait, said. He said the attackers appear to work "as isolated cells" and that US troops will remain at risk "as long as there are insurgents and weapons abound."

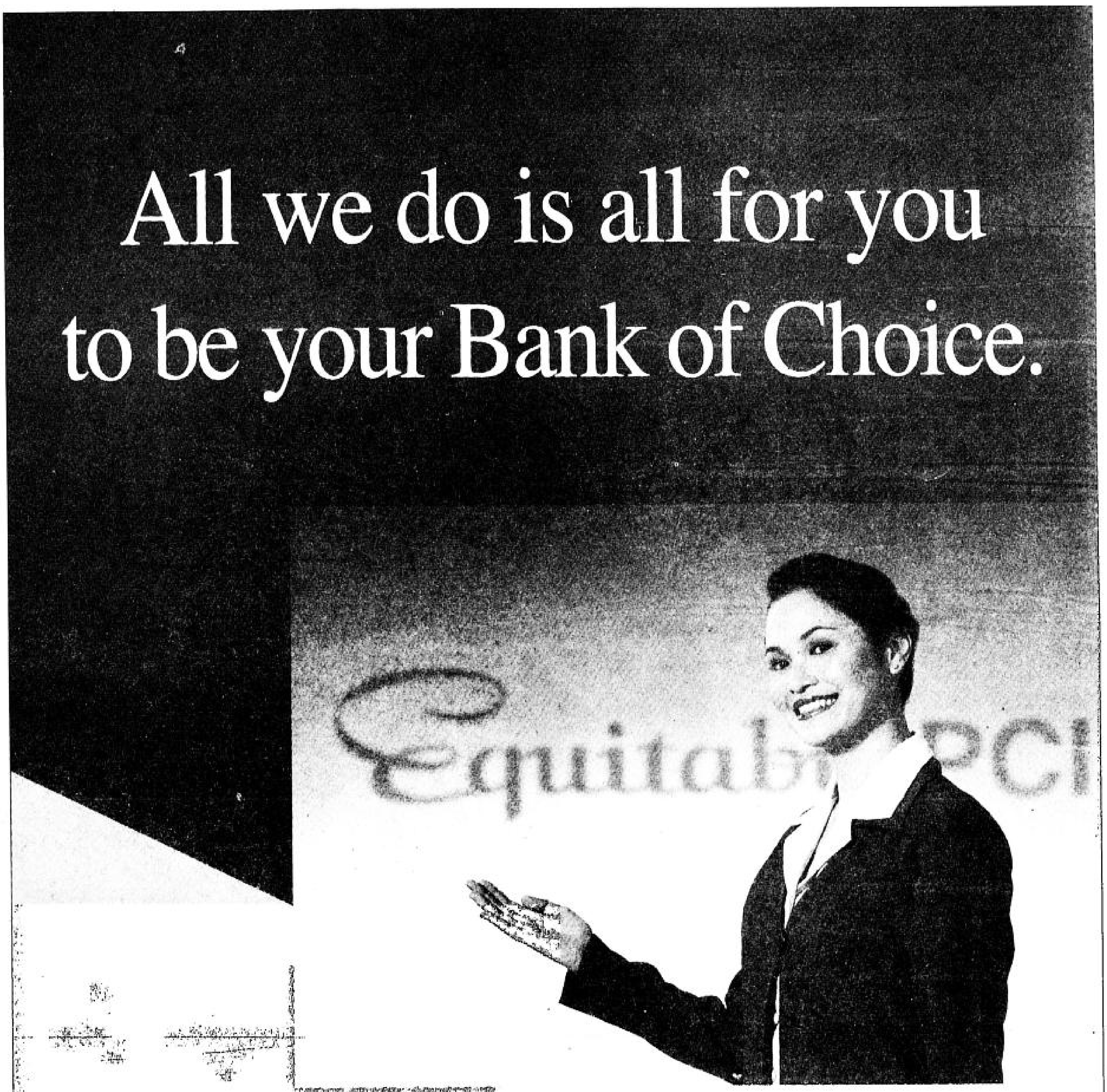
Other experts, who lack access to US intelligence but have extensive backgrounds in Iraq and the Middle East, believe the resistance may be coming from multiple sources—Baath Party remnants, former soldiers, clerics, religious extremists from other Muslim countries and tribal leaders—without central direction.

Their goals are power—with or without Saddam—and hatred of the US occupation.

"We will see what the impact of this is," said Dr. Rashid Khalidi, director of the Center for International Studies at the University of Chicago. "I doubt things will get any better as the problems with the occupation seem very deep and very hard to resolve."

On Tuesday, a new audiotape attributed to Saddam and broadcast on Arab satellite station Al-Arabiya acknowledged the death of the two brothers and said they would be martyrs in heaven.

"Even if Saddam Hussein has 100 children other than Uday and Qusay, Saddam Hussein would offer them the same path," the voice on the tape said. *AP*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Sharon to press ahead with barrier

WASHINGTON—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told US President George W. Bush on Tuesday Israel would keep building a West Bank security fence despite US concerns the barrier could block Middle East peacemaking.

"Good fences make good neighbors," Sharon told Bush during their White House meeting, a senior Israeli official said.

But seeking to ease Bush's concerns over a project that Palestinians have condemned as a land grab, Sharon pledged to do his utmost to ensure the fence snaking through the West Bank would have a minimum impact on daily Palestinian life.

A White House spokesperson welcomed the promise Sharon voiced at joint news conference with Bush but said the president "continues to express his concerns" about the barrier.

After White House talks on Friday with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, Bush called the fence a problem that would make it difficult to develop confidence between Israel and the Palestinians.

He smoothed over some rough edges with Israel by echoing, in his joint appearance with Sharon, the Israeli leader's call for Abbas to dismantle militant groups behind the killing of hundreds of Israelis during a 34-month-old uprising for statehood.

Such a crackdown by the moderate Palestinian leader is mandated by a US-backed Middle East peace plan affirmed at the June 4 summit in Aqaba, Jordan, attended by Bush, Sharon and Abbas.

"The Palestinian Authority must undertake sustained, targeted and effective operations to confront those engaged in terror and to dismantle terrorist capabilities and infrastructure," Bush said at a news conference with Sharon, was making his eighth White House visit since taking office.

Sharon said he explained to Bush that the security barrier—a cement wall in some places and electronic wire fence in others—would help bring security to Israel and subsequently build peace.

"The security fence will continue to be built with every effort to minimize the infringement on the daily life of the Palestinian population," Sharon said.

He said a dialogue with Washington over the project would go on.

Bush, in his remarks at the news conference, urged Sharon "to carefully consider all the consequences of Israel's actions as we move forward on the road to peace."

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who Bush has shunned in favor of the reformist Abbas, told reporters in the West Bank city of Ramallah the fence was a new "Berlin Wall" being built to divide Palestinian areas into ghettos.

Palestinian Information Minister Nabil Amr said Sharon's "insistence to continue building the wall ... will complicate matters and dampen the positive atmosphere" following the Aqaba summit.

Sharon came to Washington armed with confidence-building measures for the Palestinians, including the release of 540 prisoners, among them 210 militants, moves aimed at bolstering Abbas and the peace plan.

But Sharon said he was concerned that "welcome quiet" brought by a three-month truce militants declared on June 29 "will be shattered at any minute by the continued existence of terror organizations which the Palestinian Authority is doing nothing to eliminate."

The US-backed peace "road map" charts reciprocal steps toward an end to violence linked to the uprising and envisions the establishment of a Palestinian state by 2005. *Reuters*

PALESTINIAN girls pray during an Islamic Koran lesson at the Nimra mosque in the West Bank city of Hebron July 29. The sessions, which teach dozens of Palestinians girls about the holy book, are held during the school summer holidays. REUTERS

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Pentagon to junk scheme for online betting on attacks

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon said Tuesday it was terminating an experimental program to set up an online futures market where traders could bet on future terrorist attacks and assassinations in the Middle East.

"My understanding is that it has been terminated," Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said when asked by members of Congress about the controversial program sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (Darpa).

"It sounds like maybe they got too imaginative in this case," he said.

Called "Futures Market Applied to Prediction" or FutureMap, the program was created by the same Pentagon office that drew fire last year for proposing surveillance of electronic transactions on a massive scale to detect traces of terrorist activities.

The latest scheme sought to use market forces as a tool for predicting future political events and avoiding strategic surprises.

Plans called for setting up an Internet-based market where as many as 10,000 participants would in effect bet on the timing and probability of possible major events such as the assassination of Yasser Arafat or King Abdullah II of Jordan.

"Futures markets have proven themselves to be good at predicting such things as elections results; they are often better than expert opinions," the agency said in a statement Monday.

But US Senators Ron Wyden of Oregon and Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, both Democrats, on Monday demanded that the proposed $3-million program stopped before it starts registering traders on Aug. 1.

"The idea of a federal betting parlor on atrocities and terrorism is ridiculous and grotesque," Wyden, who sits on the Senate Intelligence Committee, told reporters Monday.

Wyden has been prominent among congressional critics of another Darpa program, Terrorism Information Awareness (TIA), a computer surveillance initiative that raised concerns about invasions of individuals' privacy.

He said the new "Policy Analysis Market" trading scheme is overseen by TIA chief retired admiral John Poindexter, a central figure in the Iran-Contra scandal, in which US officials illegally funded Nicaraguan rebels with proceeds from also-illegal arms sales to Iran in the mid-1980s.

Dorgan described the Internet scheme as "unbelievably stupid." *AFP*

Forest fires in France kill 5

SAINTE-MAXIME, France—Firefighters on Tuesday struggled to contain fast-moving fires that have killed five people and ravaged large areas of woodland in southern France, as President Jacques Chirac promised tough penalties for arsonists.

Some 1,700 firefighters were focusing their attention on a wide swathe of territory in the picturesque Maures hills of the Var region just off the French Riviera coast, near the fashionable resort town of Saint-Tropez.

By late afternoon authorities said the blazes—which forced thousands to flee their homes—had largely been brought under control, but firefighters battled to control one fire still raging near the town of Draguignan.

Water-carrying aircraft were deployed to help douse the fires, which broke out in force on Monday and have come during an exceptionally hot and dry summer in much of southern and central Europe.

For the first time, France was forced to call in foreign reinforcements. With Italian firefighters already on the scene, Paris also rented five water-dropping aircraft from Moscow, which headed to the zone on Tuesday.

Amid signs that some of the fires may have been started deliberately, Chirac said during a visit to French Polynesia that anyone found responsible would face "punishment of exceptional severity."

Visiting the region, Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said Tuesday that authorities would "show no mercy to people who start fires, including those who do so out of carelessness", describing the blazes as an "ecological massacre." *AFP*

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US warns al-Qaida may launch new plane hijackings, bombings

WASHINGTON—The US Department of Homeland Security has warned the airline industry that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network is planning new suicide hijackings and bombings in the United States or abroad, saying the danger ran until at least the end of summer.

"At least one of these attacks could be executed by the end of the summer 2003," the department said in an advisory sent out on Saturday and obtained on Tuesday.

"Al-Qaida planners have primarily considered suicide hijackings and bombings as the most promising method to destroy aircraft in flight as well as to strike ground targets," the advisory said.

"Attack venues may include the United Kingdom, Italy, Australia or the East Coast of the United States due to the relatively high concentration of government, military and economic targets," according to the advisory.

"The hijackers may try to calm passengers and make them believe they were on a hostage, not suicide mission. The hijackers may attempt to use common items carried by travelers, such as cameras, as weapons," the advisory stated.

No operatives are known to have been deployed to conduct the possible attacks, it added.

US officials said the warning came from "multiple sources," including at least one captured al-Qaida operative.

But they emphasized they were still trying to determine the credibility of the information.

They said no change was anticipated in the nation's terror alert level. The level remains at "yellow" or an "elevated" risk of attack, where it has generally been since the system began in March last year.

The State Department later updated an existing "worldwide caution" to include the possibility that threats to US citizens "may also involve commercial aircraft." The United States has blamed al-Qaida for the Sept. 11, 2001, suicide hijacked airplane attacks that killed about 3,000 people.

In the Sept. 11 attacks, there were five hijackers on each of the two planes that struck the World Trade Center in New York and on the plane that hit the Pentagon. There were four hijackers on the fourth plane that crashed in Pennsylvania.

The advisory warned the plan may involve use of five-man teams and an attempt to seize control of the aircraft shortly after takeoff or before landing.

It said al-Qaida was looking at ways of circumventing airline security and tightened US immigration procedures.

Many of the steps were taken after the Sept. 11 attacks. *Reuters*

Suu Kyi may be free by October, says junta

JAKARTA—Burma has told Indonesia that detained prodemocracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi may be freed before October, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda said Wednesday.

"Myanmar (Burma) has told Indonesia that they hope that before the Asean summit (Aung San Suu Kyi's case) will be resolved," he told reporters.

Wirayuda was answering a question on whether the Association of Southeast Asian Nations would push fellow member Burma to free Aung San Suu Kyi before its summit on Oct. 7-8.

Wirayuda did not explicitly say that Burma had given an assurance the Nobel peace prize winner would be freed, only that the issue would be resolved.

The foreign minister, speaking on the sidelines of an Asian-African ministerial meeting in the city of Bandung, said: "We received an assurance that the (case of) Aung San Suu Kyi will be resolved before the Asean summit."

It was not clear who gave the assurance. Burma's Foreign Minister Win Aung is attending the Bandung meeting.

Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman Marty Natalegawa said Indonesia hoped that Aung San Suu Kyi's case "will not hinder talks on other issues that need to be solved" at the summit.

He said Burma has "a fair degree of confidence" in Indonesia as a host of the Bandung gathering to mediate talks with other Asean members. *AFP*

A MILITIA member guards the official residence of Liberian President Charles Taylor in the Liberian capital Monrovia, July 29. AP

Liberia rebels shell capital, dim truce hopes

MONROVIA—Liberia's main rebel group Tuesday shelled downtown Monrovia, saying their promised ceasefire would not take effect until troops loyal to President Charles Taylor halted their attacks.

The continued fighting came as Nigeria and the United States were haggling over who will pay to send a west African peacekeeping force to the war-torn west African country, as fears of widespread hunger and outbreaks of disease mounted.

General Benjamin Yeaten, deputy chief of staff of the Liberian army, visited at the frontline by AFP journalists in the evening, said the rebels "are continuing to shell the city."

Rebels from Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) earlier Tuesday announced a unilateral ceasefire but later qualified it, saying it would take effect only when the loyalist forces also ceased fire.

LURD leader Sekou Damate Conneh said later: "I gave the order today to my troops to cease fire in Monrovia for humanitarian reasons.

"Our unilateral ceasefire will be effective only when Taylor will stop attacking us. He is still trying to cross the bridges by force."

Rebels have been trying to take the bridges which give access to the seaside capital, where hundreds of civilians have been killed by fighting since the latest rebel offensive began July 17.

General Yeaten's headquarters continued to receive hits late Tuesday. One shell landed in the central Benson Street area, wounding several people.

Yeaten said the rebels had been pushed back from the Stockton Creek Bridge—another strategic position further north which the LURD had taken earlier in the week.

LURD delegate Kabineh Ja'neh, attending peace talks in the Ghanaian capital Accra, said earlier Tuesday his movement had declared a unilateral ceasefire which would go into effect immediately.

He said their fighters had been told to group at the port area, north of the two bridges. The LURD has been controlling the port since July 19.

The LURD fighters will stay in the port area until the arrival of international peacekeepers to whom they will cede the position, Ja'neh said.

However, no date has yet been set for the dispatch of peacekeepers.

Yeaten said the LURD declaration was meaningless as "they declared a ceasefire but are still trying to cross the bridges."

He said heavy fighting was going on in Buchanan, Liberia's second port city, vast parts of which were overrun Monday by the Movement for Democracy in Liberia, a smaller rebel group based in southern Liberia. *AFP*

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Cavite cops kill 4 drug suspects

CAVITE CITY—Four suspected drug pushers who had just attended their court hearing were killed in a 20-minute gun battle with policemen on Tuesday in front of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Barangay Poblacion, Cavite City.

Cavite police director Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales identified the slain suspected drug pushers as Ronald Basa, Larry Barron, Virgilio Roraldo and Joselito Pugay.

They were all residents of Rosario, Cavite.

Another drug pusher was also killed in a near shootout in Rizal, after almost an hour of hostage taking.

Rosales said Basa and his cousins were about to board their service vehicle after attending a court hearing involving drug charges against them at the sala of Judge Jose Mayo of RTC Branch 16, when they saw PO3 Fernando Garcia and PO3 Frolito Matro going out of the building.

Witnesses said Basa and his group immediately fired at the police officers. Garcia said they were forced to retaliate.

"We could have been dead if we didn't shoot back. We were only defending ourselves," Garcia said, as he denied reports that they intentionally killed the suspects.

Garcia and Matro were the ones who collared the suspects in a police operation in Rosario a month ago.

"The suspect might have wanted to get back at my men," Rosales said.

He added that Garcia and Matro attended the court case as witnesses. He said Basa and his companions were out on bail.

Police records showed Basa is listed number one in the watchlist of notorious drug pushers in Cavite, while Barron is the province's second most wanted person.

Barron's brother, Bien, condemned the killing yesterday.

"The four suspects are innocent of the crime committed and the court has yet to render its decision over the case," Bien said.

"And we want truth and justice to prevail," an angry Barron said. He said he would file charges in court against the policemen.

Rosales said they had already ordered stricter rules on security for court cases involving drugs.

He said the Provincial Mobile Group would provide backup for police attending as witnesses.

In Binangonan, Rizal, a drug-crazed man, said to be a notorious drug peddler, was killed on the spot as he engaged responding policemen to a near shootout in a hostage-taking in Barangay Pantok on Thursday.

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal identified the slain suspect as Danilo Cervantes, alias Batang, 39, a native of Tanauan, Batangas.

Caringal said Binangonan police received a call from a certain Angelita de Guzman who nervously asked for police assistance.

She said the suspect was able to enter their house illegally and that Cervantes was threatening to kill them.

The victim said she did not know the suspect who was holding a .38-caliber pistol and threatening to remove the pin of a hand grenade he was holding.

Police led by town chief Supt. Feliciano Dimayuga immediately responded to the victim's call.

Dimayuga said they tried to talk with Cervantes but the suspect refused.

"He was acting as though he was possessed. Apparently, the suspect was high on drugs," Dimayuga said. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; with a report from Fausto Tatad Jr.*

Vigilante killings take place near police post

DAVAO CITY—Killings here continue, this time, taking place just a few meters away from a police outpost.

The wife of the latest victim, Romualdo Antipaso, said the killers could have been arrested if the two police officers assigned at the outpost were really determined to run after the suspects.

The victim, his wife Anabel and their son were on board their car when they were attacked at 7:50 a.m. yesterday at Maa Crossing, the same place where alleged big-time drug pusher Vicente Antido was gunned down three days ago.

Antipaso was able to hit the motorcycle of his attackers. Witnesses said the two suspects fell down, one of them reportedly hurt, but were still able to stand up and shoot the victim.

After the first gunfire, Antipaso's son was able to run to the police outpost to seek for assistance.

But policemen, one of them identified as PO1 Erwin Lumaya, allegedly did not show concern.

The gunmen, with their motorcycle damaged, commandeered a passenger multicab.

Lumaya said he responded to the incident but as he ran to the crime scene, his firearm magazines fell, prompting him to reach for them, causing the delay.

He said he tried to chase the multicab onboard his service motorcycle but failed to catch up with the suspects.

The multicab driver and Lumaya later met at the Talomo police station to report the incident.

But Senior Insp. Niegearos Ragay, officer-in-charge of the Talomo police station, allegedly told the two to go home, without even getting the multicab driver's name.

Antipaso is the 61st person killed by suspected members of the Davao Death Squad since January.

The incident happened after another victim who survived a vigilante-style attack tagged a policeman as one of his assailants.

But the policeman, SPO1 Aproniano Bactol, assigned at the San Pedro police station, denied the allegation. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NO TENSE MOMENT RYAN LIM
Riot policemen enjoy posing for photographers during Monday's rally of militant groups against the Macapagal administration.

40 LTO, ATO workers unpaid for 6 months

COTABATO CITY—Some 40 workers of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Air Transportation Office (ATO) in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur have not yet received their salary since January this year.

"We are still reporting for work, doing our responsibilities as loyal government workers," a senior traffic law enforcement officer in Maguindanao told the INQUIRER.

"But we cannot continue working with empty stomachs," he added.

Some 24 LTO employees, in a letter, urged DOTC Sec. Leondro Mendoza to revert them back to the national office because the Department of Transportation and Communications in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is not paying them.

In a manifesto, they also asked Budget Sec. Emilia Boncodin to recall the budget her office had released to DOTC-ARMM.

Also in a letter to Boncodin, DOTC-ARMM Sec. Camid Gandamra admitted his office received the first quarter budget for salaries of LTO Maguindanao employees and ATO workers but could not release the amount to concerned employees since "they are not still devolved to DOTC-ARMM."

He asked Boncodin to deduct the amount to their quarterly budget so that LTO and ATO workers could be paid.

The Department of Budget has yet to act on Gandamra's letter and the manifesto of complaining workers.

"We are just asking what is due us," one ATO official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "But we can't afford to work forever without pay," he added.

"We are asking President Macapagal to look into our plight," an LTO provincial official said. "I know your heart belongs to those who are oppressed," he added, speaking for the "yet to get paid workers."

ATO employees, meanwhile, urged Boncodin to punish those responsible in releasing the funds to DOTC-ARMM when the amount was intended for workers outside ARMM. Under the ARMM law, national government offices would be devolved to the autonomous region, including DOTC. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 poll officers shot in ARMM list-up

COTABATO CITY—The six-day general registration of voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has been marred by the shooting of an election officer and malfunctioning of data capturing machines.

This prompted the Commission on Elections to extend the list-up for another six days until Aug. 5. The registration should have ended yesterday.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos said the poll body decided to extend the list up because "we do not want anybody disenfranchised."

Among the problems encountered during the first six-day general list-up was the shooting of Election Officer Mohammad Magsaysay of Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao and his data encoder Alimbay Lumenda.

Both sustained serious injuries and are now recuperating at a government hospital.

Magsaysay and Lumeda had just left the Comelec regional office along Sinsuat Avenue in Cotabato City when two men on board a motorcycle fired their cal. 45 pistols. Both officials were carrying registration documents when the shooting occurred at about 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

"We could not say if it was related to the registration of voters," Commissioner-in-charge Luzviminda Tancangco told reporters. "We left the matter to the police."

But Senior Supt. Peraco Macacua, city police director, said the incident had something to do with the general list-up.

"He (Magsaysay) may have (incurred) the ire of applicants in Sultan sa Barongis because of his strict enforcement of registration rules," Macacua said.

In South Upi, Maguindanao, Rolly Moendeg, leader of about 500 Lumad folk vowed to take control of the data encoding machines "unless we are fully accommodated."

Moendeg told Radio dxMS that some 500 natives would prevent Comelec personnel from leaving with the data encoding machines unless they are all registered.

Moendeg also accused Comelec personnel of turning a blind eye on irregularities committed by local officials and politicians. "Applicants who are obviously not residents of South Upi were transported from day one of the registration and were given preference by poll personnel," he said.

Hundreds of natives, qualified and residents of villages in South Upi, were told to wait for their turn while poll officials allegedly accommodate "outsiders."

But Tancangco said multiple registrations would be determined when the next step of the registration process takes place in Comelec-Manila.

In Parang, Maguindanao, police held three passenger jeepneys loaded with suspected multiple registrants.

Qualified applicants complained about the slow registration. It took Justice Sec. Simeon Datumanong and his wife about 30 minutes each to complete the data gathering process in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao on the third day of registration.

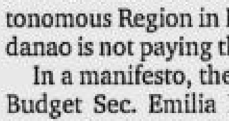
Maguidanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan has urged the Comelec to conduct an information drive.

Tancangco admitted that about a dozen data capturing machines have malfunctioned due to overheating.

Abalos, who visited ARMM provinces during the six-day list-up, told reporters in Maguindanao on Tuesday that the registration was "generally peaceful."

Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 444 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Witness claims bribery by Javier murder prosecutors

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—A defense witness in the 17-year-old murder case of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier has accused the prosecution panel of attempting to bribe one of the accused to testify against former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador and lawyer Avelino Javellana.

Oscar Salaver testified that private prosecutor Aurelio Trampe and Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera III allegedly offered financial support for the family of his older brother Henry if his brother turned state witness and testified against his co-accused.

He said the prosecutors also offered to send Henry's children to Ateneo and remove him from the list of the accused.

The offer was allegedly made in November 1999 during a meeting in the house of then Gov. Exequiel Javier, the younger brother of the slain governor, Oscar said.

He was the first witness presented by the defense during the resumption of the hearing that started Monday.

Oscar, 59, was a policeman in Camarines Sur before he was discharged in 1986 for going on absence without official leave (Awol).

He said he was contacted by Gov. Exequiel Javjer through Chief Supt. Robert Delfin who was then with the PNP Intelligence Group to convince Henry to act as state witness.

Oscar said Javier's secretary, Julie Von Possel, gave him a plane ticket to Iloilo City when he went to Javier's office in Makati City. He was housed at the Binirayan Guest House in the capital town of San Jose where he discussed the offer with his brother.

Oscar said when they met with Trampe, Dacera and provincial prosecutor Napoleon Abiera, Dacera asked Henry to sign an affidavit implicating Pacificador and Javellana.

He said Trampe and Dacera told him Javier gave the same support to the families of Oscar Tiauson, Jose Delumen, Arleen Limoso, and Romeo Nagales, who all turned state witnesses.

But he said his brother refused the offer because it would "incriminate two innocent persons," referring to Pacificador and Javellana.

Trampe denied the allegations. He said it was Salaver who offered to act as state witness but later backed out.

Delfin, now director of the Police Regional Office in Central Visayas, said he could not recall Oscar. "It was a long time ago," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

In an earlier interview, Javier denied having offered anything for Henry to testify for the prosecution.

ROUNDUP

500 troops to Samar

DOLORES, Eastern Samar—Some 500 soldiers from the 14th Infantry Battalion (IB) have been redeployed in this town to augment the 52nd Infantry Battalion. These soldiers had been assigned in Dolores before they were sent to Jolo, Sulu in August last year to back the war against the Abu Sayyaf group in Mindanao. Brig. Gen. Eusebio Ramos, Commanding General of the 802nd Brigade in Burauen, Leyte, said the redeployment aimed to provide security to the people of Samar who are facing "terrorism.". *Marc Villavicencio, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Stude punched, dies

TAPAZ, Capiz—A graduating high school student died on July 16 after he was boxed by his schoolmate in Barangay Taft. Police said Bryan Aguirre, 16, was on his way to Tapaz National High School (TNHS) when the suspect, 17, punched him on the upper jaw. The victim fell and hit his head on the cemented road. The impact of his fall was so strong that it caused his death, police said. Policemen later arrested the suspect from the TNHS and detained him at the Tapaz police station. Homicide charges were filed against him the next day. *Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

2 hurt in whirlwind

BACOLOD CITY—Two persons were injured on July 22 when a whirlwind hit their homes in Barangay Granada in this city. Ma. Luz Dajao, secretary of Barangay Granada, said both Cosette Catalan, 66, of Hacienda Consolacion Limjap and Felizardo Permalan, 49 of Purok Balabag suffered minor wounds in the leg. Dajao said a whirlwind hit Catalan's house at about 5:30 a.m., tearing off its roof and walls. The twister then moved to Purok Balabag and battered Permalan's house, about 3 km away. Dajao said Permalan, his wife Delia and their nine children were inside the house when it was lifted and spun around by the whirlwind. Dajao said the family members just held on to the house. When the house landed, Dajao said the couple and their children were dumped on to the ground. The house, which was made of light materials, pinned Permalan from his waist down. Two of his children suffered bruises. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Pushers nabbed

GUINOBATAN, Albay—Mayor Christopher Flores with the support of the provincial police and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group have arrested two big time drug pushers after raids conducted in different barangays. Police identified the arrested pushers as Roberto "Bobby" Cruz, 24 of Barangay Iraya and Jose Pableo. Flores said Cruz operates and sells banned drugs in Legazpi City, Camalig and Daraga. Flores said he had already put nine drug pushers behind bars since the anti-drug campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo started. *Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Guard shoots office

TABACO CITY—After failing to receive his salary for more than a month, a 24-year old security guard of Jacal Security Agency went berserk inside the Mayon Docks shipyard in Barangay Salvacion where he was assigned. Joner Bron shot at the cashier's office several times then he kicked the electric fan and challenged everyone to a fight, witnesses said. The police recovered seven empty shells of caliber .38 and two handguns. Police believe Bron was under the influence of liquor during the incident. The shipyard's office said Bron must pay P6,000 for the damages incurred and will not be hired again as office's guard. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Science competition

DAVAO CITY—Three students from the Philippine Science High School Southern Mindanao Campus will compete in the 1st Asia Intercity Mathematics Olympiad (AIMO) Middle School level from August 4-11 in Fuzhou City, China. Jose Fernando Obillos, Abdel Hadi Mohammad Isa and Mark Revelo, three mathematically gifted students had received further training from the school and the Mathematics Trainers Guild (MTG), a group of mathematics educators and trainers, for the competition. Judee Bacus would coach the students. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DENR execs face charges for rampant illegal logging

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—National forestry officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have recommended the filing of charges against DENR Southern Luzon Director Samuel Penafiel, six members of the regional technical review committee and Aurora DENR chief Ricardo Calderon.

These officials were "found (negligent) in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities that resulted in rampant illegal logging (in the province)," the DENR forestry team said in an 18-page report to Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun on June 9.

Also among those recommended charged were Baler Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Raul Batang and several tree markers and scalers of the Dinadiawan DENR forest station who were not identified in the report.

The multi-sectoral team, led by Joveniana Galicia, chief of the natural forest management division, investigated the illegal logging by Toplite Lumber on orders of Gozun.

The team also recommended the immediate suspension of logging activities of Toplite Lumber in areas covered by its Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma) in Barangays Dianed, Dinadiawan and Calaocan in Dipaculao, Aurora.

It also sought the cancellation of Toplite's Ifma, which was issued in July last year.

According to the team, the company's Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) and the Ifma, including its two bases, the Comprehensive Development and Management Plan (CDMP) and its five-year Integrated Operations Plan (IOP), were approved without consultations with the communities.

The review committee, led by Lino Rustia, approved the plans "without a careful scrutiny," the report said.

DENR Department Administrative Order 2000-05 requires the conduct of public hearing before an ECC is issued.

DENR and Toplite employees, according to the report, prepared the resolutions for the village councils. "They have with them the prepared resolutions when they went around and consulted the barangay council members and got their signatures regarding the endorsement of the LGUs (local government units) for the application of Toplite for Ifma, which should not be the case," the team said.

Penafiel recommended the approval of the CDMP to former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez without resolving nine technical issues.

Toplite, the team said, violated the IOP by "cutting outside the scheduled cutting area." The company also logged outside its area "even before" the approval of the plans, the team added.

"(It) had encroached the political jurisdiction of Quirino province in its logging activities," it noted. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Asbestosis kills 5 ex-US base workers

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Five former workers at a former United States naval base in Zambales died in July of asbestosis. The disease is a type of lung cancer allegedly acquired in their work that involved handling asbestos fibers for American warships.

The People's Task Force for Bases Clean Up, in a report, identified them as Romeo Santiago, Rolando Manila, Lazaro Ocampo, Restituto Ramirez and Alfredo Famistan.

These men worked at the Subic Repair Facility (SRF) and at the Public Works Center (PWC), which an environmental study said indicated various levels of contamination from hazardous pollutants, the task force said.

Jade Russel Timbas, the task force coordinator in Subic, said an average of three deaths occurs monthly among the 3,000 members of Yakap-Subic, an organization of residents around the base and former base workers.

They are seeking compensation from physical illnesses and the environmental cleanup of Subic, one of the country's two biggest special economic zones. The other is Clark, a former American air base in Pampanga.

"They all . . . handled asbestos and were exposed to it in the course of their work for the US Navy," Timbas said.

The SRF employed more than 8,000 Filipino workers during the 1980s, according to former SRF foreman Braulio Pabillare.

He said workers, without any protective gear, handled asbestos fibers as coolants for boilers of warships from 1945 to 1985.

Although asbestos was banned in 1977, the US Navy continued using the material and introduced the use of protective gear only in 1985, he said.

There are no official estimates on asbestosis cases from among former SRF and PWC workers but at least 1,000 of them in 1993 filed claim suits in a US court against 28 American companies that supplied asbestos to the US Navy.

At least 145 of 251 workers who availed of x-ray services facilitated by the Alliance for Bases Cleanup showed symptoms of asbestosis, Timbas said.

He said Ocampo, before dying last week, lamented the "double standard" of the US Navy in waste disposal.

Ocampo, according to Timbas, related that while workers "rested along the shore of Subic Bay, it was common to see other teams disposing of several drums into the water while other barrels were left unattended."

"In one waste disposal operation, while manning the forklift, he accidentally pierced one of the barrels and out came a sticky and green liquid which was shiny with a smell that hurt his chest," Timbas quoted the former worker as saying.

Ocampo, who was bedridden for three years, also related that whenever workers got sick, they were not treated in the base dispensary but were given only referral letters to clinics outside the base.

"He (Ocampo) did not mind this when he was healthy. But when he fell ill, he thought that it could have been a deliberate policy of the American base officials so that workers would not be compensated," Timbas said.

"We worked well for the US Navy, all we asked was respect for our health," Timbas quoted Ocampo as saying.

Unlike Ocampo, the other victims "just slipped away unnoticed like him, without seeing the result of their court battle against asbestos manufacturers for compensation," Timbas said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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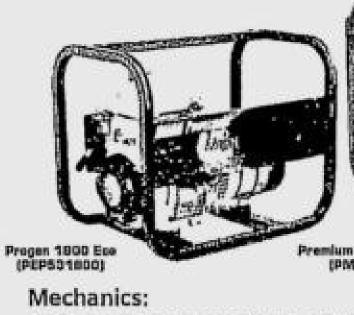
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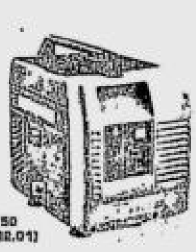
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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Sugar farmers learn to drub the grubs

By Mei Magsino
Tuy, Batangas

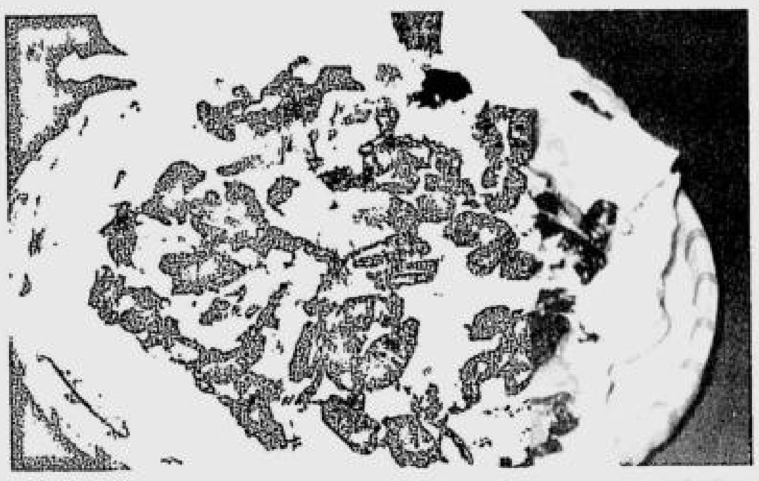
RESIDENTS of Tuy town in Batangas are fighting back—actually, eating back—to get rid of the "*salagubang*" (June or toy beetles) that have been wreaking havoc on their sugar cane farms.

Although this way of exterminating the pests proved unfriendly to the discriminating palate of the Batangueño, the town successfully held the first-ever "Salagubang Peste-bal" (June Beetle Festival) on July 24. Farmers from Tuy, Calaca, Balayan, Nasugbu and Calatagan towns joined the festival and feasted on live beetles.

"This is what we call a celebration of the revenge of the sugar cane farmers whose incomes have been depleted by the *salagubang* infestation," Tuy Mayor Boy Calingasan said.

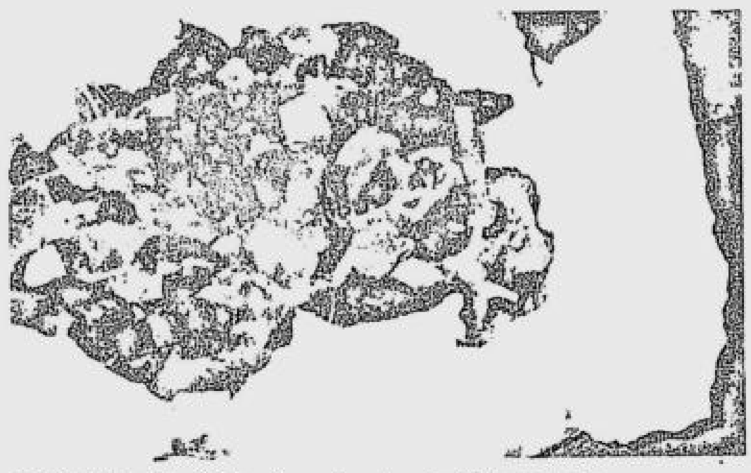
Since 1940, the town has been losing millions of pesos from the infestation, he added.

THE FEAR factor game involves eating 20 cooked "salagubang" and 10 live ones. The fastest eater wins the P5,000 prize.



"SALAGUBANG" omelet is among the recipes demonstrated during the festival.

PHOTOS BY MEI MAGSINO



ANOTHER dish: "Salagubang" sauteed with tomatoes.

Losses

Mention the word *salagubang* and sugar cane farmers would say Tuy. For many decades, the town holds the record of heaviest *salagubang* infestation in the province.

The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), a nongovernment organization helping farmers in western Batangas, revealed in a study of the sugarcane industry in the province that Tuy had been losing P40 million to P70 million every cropping year due to beetle infestation.

Dr. Greg Quimio of the National Crop Protection Center of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, said in a lecture held during the festival that the most destructive stage in the growth of the beetle was its larva period.

"The *salagubang* larva, or what we call white grub, and what the farmers here call *ulalo*, lives most of its lifetime in the soil. In its final growth stage, it reaches three to four inches in length, and is equipped with well-developed mandibles that enables it to chew on the roots of the sugar cane," Quimio said.

Grubs

Quimio said the grub could chew even the hardest roots of the sugar cane.

At six to eight months, the larva's root-feeding rampage is considered the most destructive. "In severe infestation, not only the roots but also the base nodes of the sugar cane are eaten by the grubs," Quimio added.

"In those cases, the growth of the plants becomes stunted. Some sugar cane plants lose anchorage and just topple (down). That causes the plant to dry up and die prematurely. In Tuy, we've got severe cases of that every cropping year."

Another study conducted by Dow Agro Sciences, an insecticide company, revealed that under heavy attack, the yield of a six-month-old crop could drop to 60 percent or about 30 tons of sugar cane per hectare, reducing farmers' income to 40 percent.

Adding the cost of efforts to control the grubs, earnings plummet farther to less than 30 percent.

Life cycle

At the end of July, a female beetle lays thousands of eggs on the ground that hatch into white grubs.

During its larva stage from August to December, the white grub feeds on the roots of the sugar cane. By January and February, they bore deeper into the soil by about a meter and form an earthen shell. By March or April, just as the planting season starts, they undergo the pupation stage.

By May or June, when the rainy season starts and the newly planted sugar cane begins to grow, the insect squirms out of its earthen shell and becomes a beetle.

As the beetles are considered a popular delicacy in several provinces in Northern and Central Luzon, the local agriculture office, sugar cane farmers and the PBSP started their festival of revenge.

Gilbert Sebastian, PBSP program officer, said "we were thinking that if we could start that (eating the June beetle) in Batangas, it could be the answer to totally eradicating the pests. Plus, the *salagubang* could provide farmers with an alternative source of income, viand or *pulutan*," he added.

The Salagubang Peste-bal included cooking demonstration of Tarlac's famous *salagubang* recipes like *sinangag na salagubang* fried beetles, *adobong salagubang*, *salagubang* sauteed with tomatoes, chili con *salagubang* and potato-*salagubang* omelette.

SUGAR/A17

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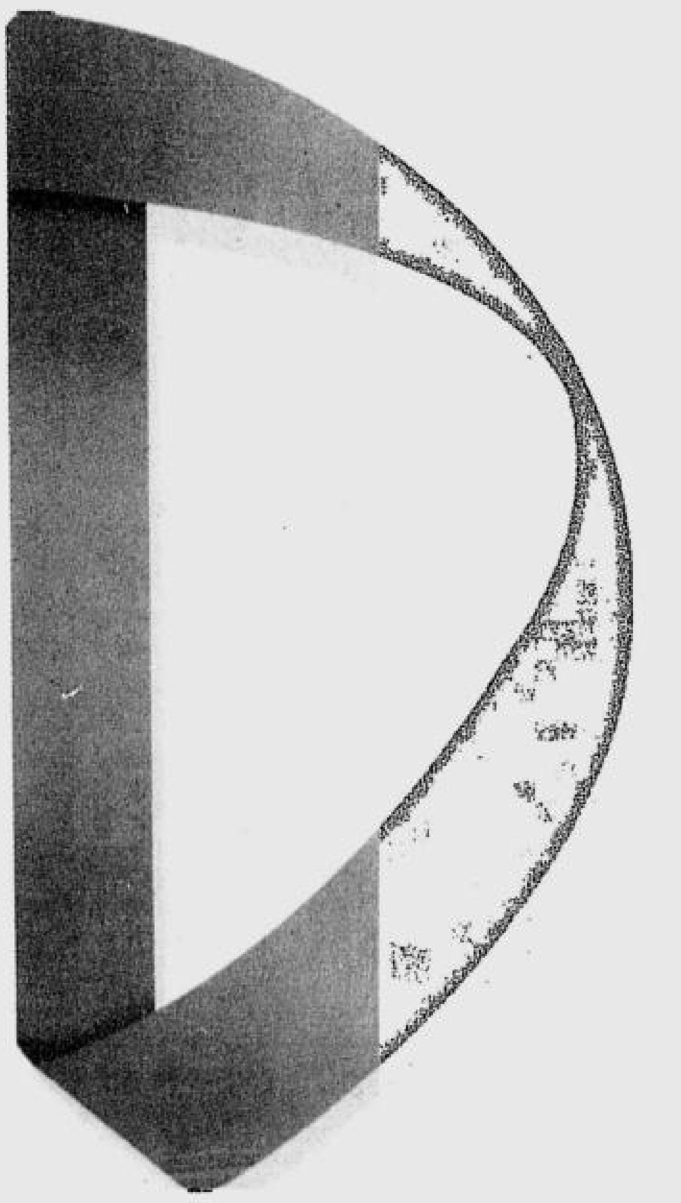
PROGRAM
10:00 AM Holy Mass
Interpretative Dance – Quezon City Performing Artists
11:00 AM Formal Program
11:10 AM Launching of "D" Advocacy Campaign of the Diabetes Center, Philippines in cooperation with Johnson & Johnson Medical Philippines
11:30 AM Guest Speakers
12:00 NN Awarding of Diabetes Achievers in cooperation with GlaxoSmithKline
12:30 PM Lunch
12:45 PM A. Guest Celebrities: Ms. Pops Fernandez
Mr. Chad Borja
Ms. Maribeth Bichara
Ms. Regine Tolentino
Ms. Sarah Geronimo
B. Diabetes Awareness Week Theme Song Competition - a Contest for the Best Interpretation
C. Free blood glucose testing and wet sampling



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Mangyan's simple wish of treatment comes true

Offers of assistance from politicians swamp Mindoro native

By Donna T. Virola
Calapan City

OFFERS, mostly coming from politicians, to help Carlos Remnayon in the treatment of his bulging cyst in the right throat area have been overwhelming.

But whatever the motives were, what matters most now is that this Mangyan proved that help could happen to those even in as remote an area as Mt. Halcon in Oriental Mindoro.

Remnayon's simple dream was to know whether his cyst could be removed. He said the provincial hospital advised him to seek treatment at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila because of some complications and danger that it would entail.

His case was featured in the INQUIRER on Feb. 27 and got several responses that same day.

The respondents included two businessmen from Calapan City and Pinamalayan town, two members of the House of Representatives—one from the province and the other from Bulacan, Senators Noli de Castro (a native of Mindoro), Loren Legarda and Ma. Luisa "Loi" Estrada, a plain housewife who offered anonymously her P1,000, and the provincial information officer.

Agencies

In order to help monitor Remnayon's treatment, the INQUIRER coordinated with the Mangyan Mission Office (known to this writer to be of integrity in genuinely serving the Mangyans). The agency suggested that since Remnayon was residing in Baco town, his case may be coordinated with the Mangyan Churches Tribal Association (Protestants) based in Barangay Bulusan in Calapan, which has already been organizing and helping the Mangyan in Baco.

The MMO said this would recognize the MCTA's service jurisdiction and it would be easier for its staff to contact Remnayon since they are very familiar with the area.

Indeed, the MCTA was able to immediately communicate with Remnayon, and told him of the offers of help. It emphasized that he would be the one to decide with whom to go.

When Remnayon reached Calapan, he proceeded to the MMO in Barangay Calero. The MMO, through Joy Bae, an alumna of the Jesuit Philippines Foundation, called up this writer and said that Remnayon told them he was a Catholic. This writer told Remnayon that it was not a matter of religion but of helping him.

The MMO agreed to help coordinate the efforts.

German docs

German doctors, who have been partners of the MMO, had also read about Remnayon's wish and volunteered to help.

On March 3, Remnayon agreed to let the Germans take charge of his hospitalization at the PGH, Bae said.

Remnayon wanted to leave for Manila on March 12 so that he could still talk with his family and his brothers and sisters, two of whom were staying in Naujan town. He stayed in Calapan for that night.

Unknown to him, on that same day, a team from the Office of Senator Estrada, led by Ronnie Doneza, went to his village to fetch him. The team talked to his wife.

The next day, Remnayon's wife, eldest son and brother went with the team to the MMO. After he was given time to talk privately with his wife, he insisted on leaving on March 12. They all left the office together.

But unknown to the MMO, Remnayon had decided to go with Estrada's staff to Manila, said Bae.

Meantime, on March 6, the Office of Sen. Legarda asked Bae to make an update on Remnayon's case as the senator was very determined to help.

Despite the confusion, the treatment of Remnayon pushed through.

Surgery

Lorlaine Saavedra, public health officer of the Mare Foundation, said that on March 13, Remnayon underwent a successful surgery called parotidetectomy, which removed the (parotid) mass of nerves in the jaw area.

It was reopened on the second day because of hematoma and stocked-up blood. The surgery entailed a month-long rehabilitation (twice a week) since some nerves were affected, resulting in Remnayon's left eye functioning slower than usual.

The fear that his "jaw could be dislocated, his sight could get blurred and breathing organ impaired" was overcome.

As of the moment, Remnayon is back in Mt. Halcon and may be cherishing his trip to Manila.

More so, he found that with the present-day technology, what seemed to him a hopeless case could be treated in a month's time.

People who knew about these events read it in different angles.

One talked about some "politics of service." Whatever that means, Remnayon's story taught that service opportunities are just around the corner with "the will to make wishes come true."

Readers' kindness helps child improve eyesight

By Emir Gamis
Sorsogon City

NICOLE Tumalad, the 2-year-old child with a congenital heart disease and congenital eye cataract, has gained weight and her eyesight has improved after undergoing eye surgery recently, thanks to the kindness of about 30 people who extended financial help and nameless others who offered prayers and moral support to her family in Sorsogon City.

TUMALAD EMIR GAMIS

Since Nicole's story was published in the INQUIRER on May 8, offers of help have poured in, her father Jun said.

"Somebody called me and asked me how much [money] was needed for Nicole's operation. I couldn't answer immediately, I was shocked," he related.

The money donations were coursed through Jun's Land Bank of the Philippines ATM account and through couriers, or handed over to the family.

The family traveled to Metro Manila on May 19, and Nicole was eventually admitted to the Social Service Department of the St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) in Quezon City.

They stayed in a relative's residence in Parang, Marikina during the first three days since they arrived, and were later asked to stay for free at a pastor's residence in San Juan.

Jun and his wife Donna they were touched by the encouragement of strangers who helped them "all throughout" even when some of them have problems of their own.

A certain Mr. James shouldered most of their expenses, the family related.

They also cited the SLMC's accommodation and fair treatment.

Dr. Jose Roces, chief resident opthalmologist of the Institute of Opthalmology of the SLMC, said that during the lensectomy procedure on June 20 to remove Nicole's cataract, they were not able to fit the patient with an intra-ocular lens because her eyeball was "too small for her age."

She will instead be wearing aphakik glasses with thick lenses to improve her vision.

The doctors they talked with considered Nicole's heart disease a simple case, according to the family.

Jun said Nicole's eyesight has really improved. She can now "chase and grab me while in her walker," he said.

Resto also offers a mini-zoo

By Joyce Mejillano
Polangui, Albay

WANT to experience savoring your favorite lunch while a nearly three-meter-long python watches in peace, or a crocodile opens its long mouth in an expression of "hello," or an eagle at your back appears ready to partake of your food if offered?

You don't have to go to a zoo to do that. Just drop by a restaurant-bar in Polangui town in Albay along the Maharlika Highway, about 45 minutes drive from Legazpi City and a few minutes' ride from the town proper.

Visitors from Metro Manila will find the place special for food lovers, especially of delicious "*lutong-bahay* (home-cooked dishes)," as well as animal lovers.

Bastian Restaurant and Wildlife Center satisfies not only one's taste for native dishes and his favorite cuisine, but also his wish to commune with erstwhile wild animals.

"I've been an animal lover ever since, that's why when I put up this bar and restaurant, I decided to put a mini-zoo," said John Liao, the owner.

Liao said starting the mini-zoo was not that difficult. He started with two eagles donated by a friend. "When my other friends learned about it, they also donated other wild animals like deer, snakes, iguanas, more eagles and others," he said.

At present, he has more than 40 wild animals, which include the endangered bleeding heart pigeon, oriental civets and a chattering lorry.

Just a few steps from the main dining area is a pond full of different fish species and water lilies.

"While waiting for their orders, customers can stroll around first without additional charge and see those wonderful creatures, some of which are already considered endangered. They can also go fishing in the pond nearby," Liao said.

Armando Moreno, Liao's caretaker since Bastian was established in 1994, said the business started as a small "*carinderia* (eatery)" catering to employees of a nearby communications company and motorists traveling the south-bound road.

Moreno said they spent at least P500 per day to maintain the zoo.

School children also come to the place for an educational tour and see the wild animals.

The mini-zoo is accredited by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"In business you should think something uncommon that might also click among your customers," Liao advised. "I want to make this place very different from others so that at least when my customers leave my place, they will remember something weird about it."

Sugar farmers learn to drub white grubs in Batangas

From page A16

Cooks Robert Lucas and Johnny Castillo, who hail from Camiling, Tarlac, said their province has actually nine famous *salagubang* recipes, but they demonstrated only five of them.

"We even have *lumpiang* (rolled) *salagubang, tostadong* (toasted) *salagubang, paksiw na salagubang, sinigang na salagubang, ginataang* (cooked with coconut cream) *salagubang* and *salagubang* barbecue," Castillo said. "I have been eating *salagubang* since I was a little boy and I think that's the reason I'm healthy. *Salagubang* is rich in protein."

Lucas said that since the people in his village in Camiling started eating the insect, their sugar cane farms became more productive.

Fear factor

The festival also included a pageant for the best *salagubang* mascot, *salagubang* wrestling tournament and *salagubang* flying contest.

Representatives of various farmers' groups and cooperatives joined the contests.

The event also challenged the Batangueño's stomach as part of the program involved the *salagubang* eating contest.

The first part of the "Fear Factor" challenge involved transferring as many *salagubang* as the participant's mouth can carry from a basin into an empty container.

Nineteen men and two women joined the contest of eating 20 cooked *salagubang* and 10 live ones.

For the prize of P5,000, seven elimination round contestants joined. But the contest proved to be too unfriendly for the stomach of some of the contestants as some of them vomited right in the middle of the contest.

The taste

Even Tuy's mayor had a taste of the cooked *salagubang*.

Trying to evade the people's clamor to see him eat the insect, Calingasan first offered the delicacy to the town hall's department heads.

When a TV crew, complete with cameras focused on him, he, too, ate the *salagubang*.

Asked about the taste, Calingasan said: "It tastes sour and delicious, and crunchy. Don't worry, it's clean."

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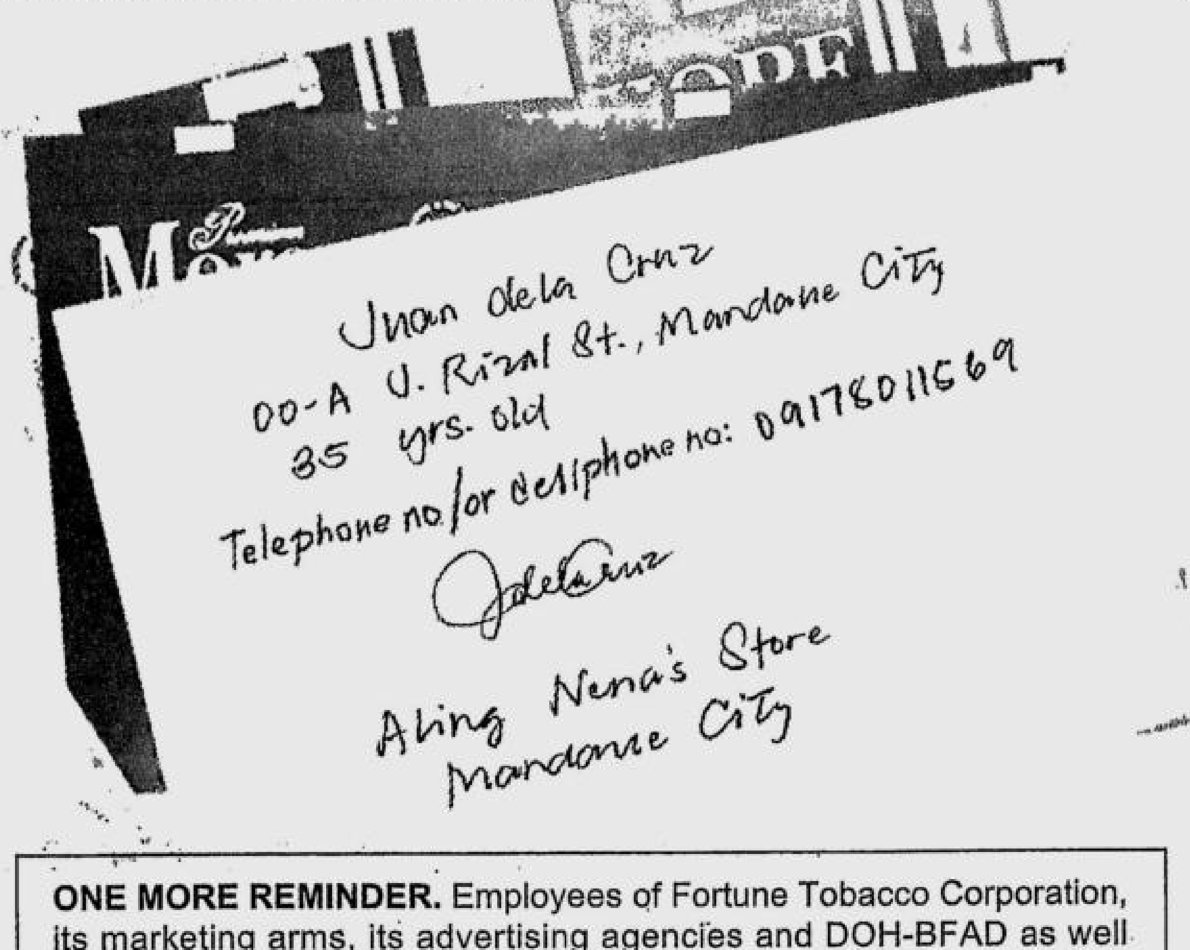
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Corpus quits, says crisis far from over

From page A1

his resignation letter. "There is still a deep restiveness in the officers corps of the AFP. The putschists are asking for my resignation. Although I can honestly say that their accusation that I had a hand in the Davao bombings is without basis, I think it is best for all that I get out of the picture."

Corpus is the first military official to step down following the weekend mutiny.

But Reuters quoted National Security Adviser Roilo Golez as denying on local TV that the resignation of the intelligence chief was related to the mutiny or in response to the rebel soldiers' demands. He said Corpus' departure had been considered for at least a month.

Ms Macapagal, however, did not accept Corpus' offer to retire from the AFP, her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

According to the President's chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao, Corpus will be given another position in the military because she considers him a "very valuable" officer.

"The President was touched by the nobility of General Corpus and his principled stand," Tiglao said, adding that Corpus would be available for the investigation of the claims the mutineers had made.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya also said Corpus' resignation was not an offshoot of the mutineers' calls for his ouster.

"This was a letter [he] submitted, so it was not due to any pressure coming from anybody," said Abaya, who could not say yet who would be the next Isafp chief.

Abroad

Corpus is reportedly abroad and could not be reached for a statement.

He is turning 59 in October and will not be retiring from the service until October next year. He has been allowed to stay longer than the mandatory retirement age of 56 because of his "broken service" record.

A 1967 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, the then Lieutenant Corpus raided the PMA armory in 1970 and defected to the communist New People's Army. He eventually became one of its leaders.

He surrendered to the government in 1976 and was sentenced to die by firing squad. But after the Edsa revolt in 1986, he was reinstated in the military.

He was named Isafp chief following Edsa II in January 2001 that ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Praise

Corpus earned praise from government officials despite the "lapses" of his unit in intelligence work.

"He served with conviction and a lot of effort. All units have lapses. There's no perfect intelligence," Defense Secretary Reyes told reporters in an ambush interview.

"We'll try to get an officer as good as him, if not better," Reyes added.

Asked whether Corpus was a "big loss" to the military, General Abaya said: "I think so. He has contributed a lot while he was chief of the Isafp."

Abaya also said the military would not retire Corpus even if the President had accepted his resignation.

"We can make use of him and his expertise in other fields," Abaya said. "I think he's good in CMO (civil-military operations). He can help coordinate the right-hand effort with the left-hand effort of the government. [For example] earlier the President designated him as in charge of the distance learning [program], which is part of the left-hand effort in our internal security operations."

'Unlike the others'

Opposition senators lauded Corpus for his "delicadeza" or sense of honor, which, according to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, is a "rare commodity in Philippine officialdom."

Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said Corpus should be commended, "unlike the others."

Sotto also said that if Corpus' resignation was part of the agreement reached between authorities and the mutineers on Sunday, this showed that the government was honoring it.

Representatives Rolex Sulpico (Iloilo) and Celso Lobregat (Zamboanga City) said Corpus did the right thing given the strong clamor for his head.

Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon (Muntinlupa City) said he commended Corpus for making "a great act, unlike some persons I know."

Rep. Prospero Pichay, chair of the House committee on national defense, expressed admiration for Corpus but pointed out that the latter should still be available for the investigation of the mutiny.

"He has to come even if he's already resigned because the charges were specific against him as Isafp chief," Pichay said.

But Sen. Panfilo Lacson, whom Corpus has accused of involvement in drug trafficking, money laundering and other high crimes, had this to say: "May he now turn from sin and dedicate himself to the amendment of his life. In short, may he repent."

Lacson said Corpus' resignation was part of the demands of the mutineers and "could be a way to assuage [their] emotions and the public outcry."

'Half-baked'

Sen. Edgardo Angara told reporters that Corpus' resignation was "welcome but half-baked."

"The other part of the cake has to go too, [and that's] Reyes," Angara said.

Sulpico said he expected Ms Macapagal to fire Reyes when she delivered her State of the Nation Address on Monday, and was disappointed not to hear it.

Pichay said he would not call on Reyes to resign his post because the decision depended on the defense secretary himself and was the prerogative of the President, being the appointing power.

Reyes, however, announced that he would hold his ground.

"I've always said that I'm doing my job well, and I'm staying," he said. "I'm serving at the pleasure of the President. It's intrinsically silly if the secretary of defense will resign because of calls from young officers," he said.

Bunye said that there was no offer of resignation from Reyes and that the President had not made any indication that she wanted his resignation as well.

As for Ebdane, the President did not accept his resignation two weeks ago because she wanted him to personally recapture Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Cynthia D. Balana and Reuters*

President's men say 'twas Gringo who called

From page A1

THE NEGOTIATORS: housing chief Mike Defensor, the President's senior deputy chief of staff Rene Velasco and Sen. Gregorio Honasan on their way to Oakwood on Sunday afternoon. VAL HANDUMON

with Honasan on the phone, also denied that Malacañang had sought the senator's help. He said Honasan called him up, after he called two of the senator's lawyers, and "asked for assurance that he would not be arrested."

Defensor said he told President Macapagal-Arroyo about Honasan's request and she said: "*Sige*, go ahead."

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye joined in denying Honasan's account of the talks. "It's exaggerated. It's self-serving. That's why it's called a privileged speech," Bunye said.

Real credit

Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao, who was present in a meeting with Honasan at the Mandarin Hotel at around 4 p.m. of Sunday, said the credit for the peaceful end of the rebellion should go not to politicians but to members of the Philippine Military Academy Class '94 and '95, who spent the whole Sunday conducting "one-on-one" sessions with their mutinous classmates inside the Oakwood luxury apartments.

Tiglao said that very early in the morning of Sunday, about 20 members of PMA Classes '94 and '95 met and were given the go-signal by the President to proceed to Oakwood to convince their classmates to end the mutiny. The group included two of the President's close-in military aides—Capt. Joel Malig, Class '94, and Lt. Christopher Magdangal, Class '95.

"I'm pissed off because the real credit belongs to the classmates [of the rebels]. They talked to their classmates one by one. It's really the PMA Class '94 and '95 which won it," Tiglao said.

Velasco said it was Malig and Magdangal who were responsible for securing an extension of the 5 p.m. deadline from the President herself as well as the surrender of 50 of the mutineers just after 5 p.m.

Velasco said opposition Senators Honasan, Vicente Sotto III and Rodolfo Biazon even muddled the negotiations during the crucial hour before the first deadline of 5 p.m.

"It is worth noting that the mutiny was resolved not during our talks, but right after the three senators, Secretary Defensor and I left Oakwood," Velasco said in a statement.

He said it was during the talks between the President's official negotiator, Ambassador Roy Cimatu, and the mutineers that a breakthrough was achieved.

Reelectionist

Velasco noted that the senators who went to Oakwood were all reelectionists.

"It is the politicians who stalled the negotiations," Velasco said. He said Honasan went on a lengthy discussion (*"nagdiskurso"*) of his National Recovery Program. Biazon and Sotto also talked lengthily about the country's problems.

Velasco said Sotto reprimanded him when he told the renegade soldiers that their grievances were legitimate but their method was illegal.

"That's uncalled for," he quoted Sotto as telling him. Velasco said the atmosphere was tense because some of the soldiers glared at him.

Velasco denied he almost caused the talks to collapse because of his comments.

"*Parang bini-beybi nila* [It appeared that they were spoiling the mutineers]. I told them to tell the mutineers that their method was illegal and immoral. And I was expecting the senators to help me [explain]. But the senators, I don't know if they see the mutineers as voters, [even reprimanded me] that [what I said was] uncalled for," Velasco said.

"Instead of helping defuse the situation, they said the statements of the mutineers were true. *Pinapainit pa nila lalo ang sitwasyon,*" he added.

Velasco also denied that it was the senators who opened the channel of communications with the renegade soldiers. He said Biazon was in the area since 7 a.m. and Sotto since 1 p.m. but they were not allowed to go up to Oakwood. But he said when he and Defensor arrived, together with Honasan, they were allowed to go up within five minutes.

Blockade

A Palace official who did not want to be named said Honasan phoned Palace officials because he could not get past the police and military blockade on Ayala Avenue to get to the renegade soldiers.

"He was having difficulties getting in touch with the rebels because the PNP (Philippine National Police) had a blockade," the official said.

The official said Honasan was "missing" in the early hours because he was afraid he would be "picked up" for involvement in the mutiny. He only surfaced, the official said, when he got a commitment from Malacañang that he would not be arrested. The official added that Honasan could have "agitated" the mutineers if he was able to get access to them.

Velasco, who is also director of the Philippine Information Agency, said the credit belonged first to the President who initiated the negotiations with the mutineers.

"For one, she sent no less than her close-in security who are PMA classmates of the mutineers to talk sense to them. About 50 of the rebel soldiers had left Oakwood after talking with their classmates even before Senator Honasan talked to me," Velasco said.

He said the President also talked to the relatives of the mutineers while Church and civil society groups condemned the mutiny and prayed for peace.

Other contributors

He conceded that Biazon, Sotto and Honasan were the "other contributors."

This was how the Palace emissaries explained the sequence of the events.

Early on Sunday, the President's close-in security aides [Malig and Magdangal] called up their classmates to help persuade those staging the mutiny to surrender. Tiglao said the group of 20 went to Oakwood and were talking to their classmates by lunch up to the end of the mutiny.

Defensor was apparently the first Palace official to have a phone conversation with Honasan. Defensor said that at about 10 a.m., he called up Honasan's chief of staff and lawyer who were also his fraternity brothers. At about 3 p.m., he received a call from Honasan asking him if he would not be arrested if he went to Oakwood.

Velasco said he also called up Jess Fernandez, Honasan's chief political staff. "I told Jess that Brod Greg (Honasan) was again implicated in the mutiny and we agreed that if (Honasan) is indeed not guilty, he must come out and openly explain his position."

Velasco said that probably because of this call, Honasan phoned him at around 3:45 p.m. asking for a meeting at the Mandarin Hotel.

Velasco said he asked Tiglao, Presidential Management Staff chief Silvestre Afable III and Defensor to join him.

They reached Mandarin Hotel at about 4:15 p.m.

Velasco said he asked Honasan about his role in the mutiny and whether he recognized the legitimacy of the President.

"He professed no involvement in the mutiny and offered to talk to the mutineers," Velasco said.

He said Honasan noted that he already took his oath of allegiance to the flag when he became senator.

At 4:30 p.m., Velasco said he, Defensor and Honasan went to the Intercon Hotel where they found Biazon and Sotto trying to contact the leaders of the mutineers so they could go up to Oakwood. He said the senators had been waiting for hours but could not go up.

He recalled that the atmosphere was tense because the deadline was nearing and government troops were moving in on Oakwood.

At 4:45 p.m., they went up to Oakwood. They started the talks at 5 p.m.

"We made it clear to the rebel soldiers as well as to the three senators that we were not the negotiators. We simply went with Senator Honasan to know and write down their demands and relay them to the President," Velasco said.

Velasco said that before 5 p.m., Malig told his classmates that the President allowed a two-hour extension of the first deadline.

He said his group talked with the rebels up to 5:45 p.m., asking for the "doables" among their demands.

Demands

He said three demands were raised—investigation of the selling of ammunition to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and of the Davao bombing, and the resignation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, military intelligence chief Victor Corpus and PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane. Velasco said Defensor took notes of the demands to be relayed to the President.

Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV and his group of mutineers did not like the setting up of a commission for the investigation. Velasco said he asked the group if it would accept the commission should one of their classmates be part of it.

Velasco said he got a call from Malacañang telling that Cimatu had been designated official negotiator.

"I asked the rebels to let him come up. The mutineers initially refused to talk with Ambassador Cimatu and his team. But after some discussion, and silent prayers on my part, they relented and allowed him to enter Oakwood," Velasco said.

A Palace official said the mutineers accepted Cimatu's role when they were told that the President would not extend the 5 p.m. deadline if they did not talk with him.

At 5:45 p.m., Velasco said he, Defensor, Honasan, Biazon and Sotto left Oakwood and Cimatu was able to talk freely with the mutineers.

Cimatu took with him Col. Danny Lim and Col. Abe Purugganan.

Charges vs Honasan filed this week, says Lina

By Nelson Flores

INTERIOR Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday said the police investigation of Sen. Gregorio Honasan in connection with the mutiny would continue despite the senator's claim that he had no role in the military action.

Lina said despite Honasan's denial, charges would be filed against him this week before the Department of Justice. He, however, refused to give any details regarding the evidence against the senator.

Earlier, Lina said Honasan was involved in the attempt by some junior officers of the armed forces to topple the administration. He added that the PNP was still gathering more evidence as the government launched a full-scale investigation of the "failed coup attempt."

Lina said without elaborating that well-known personalities who supported the coup were also being watched.

INQ7.net swamped with 2.6M page views

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The figures are based on the site's server traffic logs, which record all requests for pages made from users' Web browsers.

On Sunday alone, the site registered over one million page views during the height of the mutiny. By noon, INQ7.net's multiple servers were running at 95 percent of their maximum rated capacity, according to Robert Gantuangco, the site's chief technical officer.

The ideal load for servers to prevent a crash is 60 percent of their maximum rated load, he noted.

To lessen the load and allow more visitors to access the site, INQ7.net suspended its regular homepage and instead began using its continuously updated "running account." The file size of the running account page was less than half the site's regular homepage.

The change lessened the servers' load considerably, but only for a short time. When Ms Macapagal issued her 5 p.m. deadline for the rebels to surrender, traffic climbed back to previous levels.

But because of the much lighter home page, many more people were able to keep abreast of events through the site.

In addition to the running account, INQ7.net also broadcast GMA-7 video coverage and live dzBB radio on the Internet, a service much appreciated by overseas Filipinos who were glued to the radio like their relatives in the Philippines.

The last time INQ7.net experienced this level of traffic was during the Edsa People Power II uprising. The site recorded 1.8 million page views on Jan. 20, 2001, when then Vice President Macapagal assumed the presidency.

INQ7.net is the online, multimedia news joint venture of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network Inc.

The increased traffic and server load during the mutiny meant that plans to upgrade the site's servers and bandwidth would now have to be accelerated, said INQ7.net CEO Paolo Prieto.

"The demand for the site is now outpacing our bandwidth capabilities. We now have to double our bandwidth to better serve overseas Filipino readers and our advertisers," he said.

Peso edges closer to 55 to US dollar

From page A1

1,228.19, following a 2.5-percent decline on Tuesday. The main index had given up 5.9 percent during the previous five sessions.

Even so, Camacho said the immediate impact of the mutiny on currency and stock markets was not as bad as the government had anticipated.

"What's more worrisome is the longer-term effect of the mutiny," Camacho told dzRH radio station. "There can be no denying that the mutiny was a setback."

President Macapagal-Arroyo insisted the other day that political stability and national security were unimpaired despite the revolt of junior officers in Makati City.

A Palace statement on Wednesday quoted Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin as saying that she expected "no major or substantial changes" to the country's macro-economic numbers this year despite the weekend mutiny.

Leaders of various business groups met Tuesday night with top military and police officials to voice their concerns about graft and corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police.

The business leaders said the credibility of a presidential commission's inquiry into the mutineers' complaints of corruption in the AFP and PNP was important in repairing the country's tarnished image abroad.

In a bid to boost investor confidence, Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas II and senior military officials also met with businessmen and executives of foreign chambers of commerce to explain the security situation.

"The security briefing is one of the steps the government is undertaking to let the business community know the real situation . . . and likewise let them know the next steps we will be taking," Roxas said in a statement on Wednesday.

Roxas said that most foreign business groups shared his optimism that the mutiny would not impact on the economy as badly as initially expected because it ended without bloodshed.

"The peso depreciation, and stocks' decline were just immediate reactions," Camacho said. "Over at the stock market, it wasn't as bad as we expected. In fact, while there was some selling, there were also those who were buying up stocks."

Camacho said it might take some time before investor confidence returns and that the government would have to improve the peace and order situation to draw investors back.

Not another mutiny

Makati business establishments, which were shaken by the mutiny, said the prevention of another military revolt was the key to preserving their security.

The Makati financial center was transformed into a potential battle zone riddled with live explosives and bristling with snipers on Sunday when 300 rebel soldiers occupied the Ayala Center shopping and apartment complex in a 22-hour standoff with pro-government troops.

Asked whether businesses feared for their security, Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club, told AFP: "I don't think the solution will be to provide more security in Makati. That will not be the solution at all."

"The solution lies in preventing [destabilizing incidents] from happening," Luz said.

He said military and police personnel toting guns along the streets of Makati would be "disconcerting to businessmen, shoppers and tourists.

"It is tantamount to the US deploying armed military personnel along Manhattan on a daily basis or the British armed forces doing the same in the City of London," he said.

The Makati Business Club comprises more than 800 chief executive officers and senior executives representing nearly 450 of the country's largest corporations.

Luz said many of the business establishments in Makati had beefed up security following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States.

He said he was unaware whether the Makati business district was part of the key installations provided additional security when the government got wind of the mutiny.

"When something like this happens, generally it is difficult to expect the local security force of the Ayala Center to be capable of handling the situation. Even if there are a lot of police in Makati, they will be out-manned and out-equipped," Luz said.

Almost three-fourths of senior business executives polled in a Makati Business Club survey this month said their "immediate problem" was security.

Graft and corruption remains the second most serious problem of the country, according to the survey that was conducted before the failed mutiny.

Balanced budget

A Malacañang statement said the government remained focused on achieving a balanced budget and restoring fiscal health while reducing the country's debt burden in the medium term.

The government has set a target of 4.2 to 5.2 percent annual growth in gross domestic product this year. The GDP growth target is 4.9 to 5.8 percent in 2004. The economy grew 4.6 percent in 2002.

Annual average inflation is forecast to rise to 4.5 to 5.5 percent this year from 3.1 percent in 2002 but the government expects it to moderate to 4.0 to 5.0 percent next year.

The budget deficit is forecast to narrow to 4.7 percent of GDP this year from 5.6 percent in 2002.

The government blew through three shortfall targets last year, forcing it to push back the schedule for a balanced budget to 2009 from the original target of 2006.

Boncodin is expected to submit a proposed 2004 budget of P864.8 billion to Congress on Aug. 6, according to the Palace statement. The proposed budget is 7.56 percent higher than the 2003 budget of P804 billion.

A key feature of the proposed 2004 budget is an increased allocation for education to fund the construction of new school buildings and hire more teachers, the Palace statement said. *Reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Michelle Remo, AP, AFP and Reuters*

Gloria Time cover girl for third time

From page A1

2002 issue which had the cover title: "Iron Lady? US troops have landed, coup rumors abound and poverty persists. This could be President Arroyo's finest hour or her downfall."

Malacañang released a press statement trumpeting the latest TIME cover, noting that the American newsweekly described her as "hard-nosed technocrat" and that she has "finally risen and some strong results have followed."

The TIME cover story, written by Michael Schuman, said Sunday's coup attempt was an example of how government's agenda can be ruthlessly redirected by current events and the fragility of the Philippines' democratic institutions.

It said Ms Macapagal's own economic team pointed to the security problem as the one holding economic growth.

TIME noted that the rumor mill was working overtime last week that a coup was in the offing, with the President dining with disgruntled mid-level military officers last Wednesday.

A day after, she visited the Scout Rangers camp (Camp Tecson in Bulacan) but the officers were not mollified.

'Should we make it public?'

TIME said that when she was alerted about the coup last Friday, she asked: "Should we make the mutiny public? She convened the Cabinet. It said the Cabinet sentiment was to expose the plot to nip it in the bud.

TIME said Ms Macapagal sought the help of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, hero of the 1986 Edsa People Power, who released a pastoral letter on Saturday asking the citizenry to rally around the President.

Defining moment

TIME said that until the July 27 mutiny, Ms Macapagal's biggest challenge was Mindanao. The President, it said, describes the possibility of a peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front as the "defining moment" for her presidency. Talks would start on Aug. 8, TIME said.

But TIME said its own investigation showed that striking a deal with the MILF could be more risky than Ms Macapagal admits publicly.

It said Ms Macapagal's negotiations with the MILF "might do nothing to rid the Philippines of jihadis who want to blow up embassies and attack Western targets."

"The escape last month of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi from a military (police) jail in the middle of Manila was a reminder of JI's (Jemaah Islamiya) reach," it said.

It said Al-Ghozi trained with the MILF but his allegiance was with the JI.

Baby boomer

TIME said Ms Macapagal was clearly gunning for achievements as expected of the country's first baby-boomer President.

It said the 56-year-old economist was expected to usher in a younger, cleaner, smarter administration than that of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

But, it said, she found her presidency dogged by legitimacy issues.

"In response, her handlers came up with often laughable attempts to bolster her image, such as placing her on a glossy magazine cover dressed in Men In Black-style shades and suit in an effort to portray her as tough on terrorism," it said.

It said one former Cabinet official remarked about that photo (which appeared in the cover of Philippine Tatler magazine): "You felt like saying: Will the real Gloria please stand up?"

TIME said that over the past year, the "real Gloria" a hard-nosed technocrat has finally arisen, and some strong results have followed."

It said unemployment and inflation rates were declining as well as the budget deficit which was 32 percent lower in the first six months of this year compared to the same period last year.

Anti-corruption drive

.TIME said a big reason for this was the anti-corruption drive at the Bureau of Internal Revenue whose chief Guillermo Parayno, it said, has weeded out wrongdoers and introduced a more efficient computer system to reduce graft opportunities.

The result, it said, was a 14.7-percent increase in tax collections in June.

All this has created a 4.4 percent economic growth but economists say the Philippines needs to surpass 7 percent to reduce poverty and absorb additional workers resulting from the country's high birth rate, it said.

TIME said that before last week's mutiny, Ms Macapagal seemed to be getting some purchase on the levers of power. One was the promising talks with the MILF and another was the filing of graft charges against four revenue and customs officials. The economy was slowly improving as well, it said.

Chance of winning

"With such successes, Arroyo doesn't look like a politician ready to leave office next year especially since her chances of winning keep improving," TIME said, noting that her approval rating in one survey in June jumped from 34 percent to 46 percent.

"Arroyo may say she is not running, but she is certainly not idling, either," TIME said.

TIME then went on detailing the President's busy schedule, marching from one meeting to another and doing the rounds of the provinces, as well as her tough pronouncements.

"She sure looks like a candidate on the hustings, and political analysts admit that another Arroyo administration is looking more attractive," it said.

But in a country where elections are popularity contests rather than policy debates, TIME said, "the stern Arroyo is given even odds at best to win if she decides to run."

The TIME story led off with how Ms Macapagal sees the hand of God everywhere.

THE OTHER side of the mutinous junior officers is the loyalty of their peers to the Constitution according to a manifesto presented on Tuesday night by Navy Lt. Sg. Joseph Michael Santos in Camp Aguinaldo.

JOAN BONDOC

Majority of Class 1995 . . .

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Santos read the statement in Camp Aguinaldo on Tuesday night. He and 49 members of the class later declined to grant interviews.

Most of the mutiny leaders, including Lieutenants Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes and James Layug, and Captains Gary Alejano, Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo, were members of the Marilag Class.

No links to politics

Santos denied any links with any political party in the wake of reports that Trillanes wrote a major part of Sen. Gregorio Honasan's "National Recovery Program."

The members of the Marilag Class "disown ... some persons who are dragging the good name of our class for their own personal and political interest," he said, adding:

"We are not in any way affiliated with any political party or personality."

Santos also aired an appeal to authorities: "Our only request is that the members of our class, the underclass and the soldiers involved in the Oakwood incident, be treated fairly and their valid and legal concerns be addressed accordingly."

He maintained that the mutineers' decision to return to barracks was "a product of a collective effort" and not of a single individual.

Betrayal

In Camp Crame, junior police officers had harsh words for their counterparts in the military who staged the Sunday mutiny.

They condemned the mutiny as "a betrayal of our oath and duty to defend the republic and duly constituted authorities."

"We believe that this irresponsible act of the mutineers has caused irreparable damage to our economy and international image and reputation," the group said in a statement that its head, Chief Insp. Randy Peralta, read yesterday.

Peralta said the group represented all junior officers nationwide with the ranks of chief inspector, senior inspector, and inspector.

Most of them are graduates of the Philippine National Police Academy, and the others joined the service through the so-called "lateral entry" system, he said.

Those who showed up at Camp Crame yesterday belong to the PNP's elite Special Action Force.

In the statement, the group accused political leaders of fomenting the rebellion in an effort to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

"We denounce the unnamed leaders and politicians behind the mutiny," the officers said, adding that these unnamed people had "misled and manipulated" the rebel soldiers.

The group took offense at the rebel soldiers' suggestion that those who did not join the mutiny were tolerating the supposed widespread corruption in the police and military.

This accusation "besmirched the honor and name of our institution and its individual officers and men," the group said.

It said that some of the grievances might have been valid, and that the rebel soldiers should have resorted to "official and legal venues."

But now that the rebellion has been quashed, the mutineers should face the consequences of their actions, the group said.

"We believe in the rule of law and the supremacy of the civilian authority over the military and the police," it declared. *Reports from TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra*

Coup charges to be filed today vs Laarni Enriquez

From page A1

The complaint will be lodged with the Mandaluyong City prosecutor's office.

Enriquez, alleged mistress of former President Joseph Estrada-has 10 days to file a counter-affidavit, according to the source.

Enriquez could not be reached for comment. Estrada had flatly denied allegations that he had any hand in the mutiny.

Police had established that Enriquez's townhouse at 461 J. Vargas St. in Barangay Addition Hills was used as a staging point by some of the 296 soldiers who seized the Oakwood hotel in Makati City on Sunday.

A Philippine Navy intelligence officer said that at least 30 rebel soldiers had clandestinely met at the townhouse to prepare for the siege.

Police and military operatives seized several rounds for M-30 machine guns, hundreds of "links" for a 50-caliber gun, 10 camouflage uniforms, pistol belts, flippers, at least 35 blackpacks, and several armbands.

Mandaluyong local officials said that Enriquez was the registered owner of the townhouse.

Citing records, they said that Enriquez bought the property in November 1999.

In July 2002, the property was sold to Liezel Magpoc of Balara, Quezon City, for P3.5 million, way below its true market value ranging from P6 million to P10 million.

But Magpoc looked hard-up, and could not afford to buy the unit, according to the city engineer of Mandaluyong Conrado Anciado.

The house was buit by the Joseph Estrada-Luisa Pimentel Real Estate Development in 1999 without a building permit, according to Mayor Benhur Abalos.

Inquirer story part of evidence vs Strunk in US

From page A1

is based in Los Angeles, was never close to Strunk, who was married to her mother for 22 years.

It also said that the public knew Strunk as "Mr. Nida Blanca."

Blanca was murdered on Nov. 7, 2001.

Aside from Kaye and Demetriou, the meeting with Melikian was also attended by Blanca's accountant Jacsie Alba and Helene Tinette, victim-witness program manager assigned to the US Attorney's office whose job is to deal with the victim's family.

Beating deadline

The formal extradition application against Strunk was received by the US government through the Office of the Attorney General on July 9 or two days before the deadline for submission of evidence.

The documentary evidence consist of 26 affidavits or depositions attached to the extradition application.

Under the extradition treaty between the Philippines and the United States, the former is given 60 days from the time of the arrest of Strunk on May 13, or on July 11, to file the formal application for extradition.

"Had you failed to meet the deadline, Strunk would be scot-free today. The Philippine government would have lost this case by default," Demetriou quoted Melikian as saying. He added that he could not understand the delay.

Wycoco's fault if...

"If that happened, it would be Wycoco's fault," Demetriou said.

She was referring to the director of the National Bureau of Investigation, Reynaldo Wycoco, whom Demetriou had accused of losing a vital document in the Strunk case—Strunk's handwritten letter of undertaking where he promised to return to the Philippines to face investigation for the Blanca murder.

Strunk had sent the letter to the NBI director after leaving for the United States in January 2002 to see his ailing mother in California.

His mother died but Strunk refused to return to the Philippines.

Late last month, Demetriou asked the Department of Justice what it was going to do about the NBI negligence. She said the NBI's bungling was jeopardizing Strunk's extradition and this could even lead to his release.

Already, Judge Hollows had made known his reservations about the strength of the case against Strunk.

Hollows had been described by Melikian as a no-nonsense judge who does not countenance delays.

ROD STRUNK: He's got a lot of worrying up ahead with the first hearing on the Philippine government's extradition application scheduled on Aug. 8.

PDI FILE PHOTO

FOUR DIGIT
0 7 7 8
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
8 5 6

MEGALOTTO 6/45
4 13 28 40 41 42

METRO

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

POLICE REPORT

Mutineers raided Rustan's

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A NOTEBOOK told it all.

Three days after rebel soldiers took over Ayala Center, Rustan's Supermarket reported to the Makati police that they are missing P22,061.45 worth of food items.

SPO4 Dioscoro Asinas Jr., officer in charge of the Makati police theft and robbery section, yesterday said the suspects were members of the group of young officers and soldiers who launched a failed coup over the weekend.

The suspects left behind a notebook detailing the items they took from the supermarket, which is located at the ground floor of Rustan's Department Store beside Glorietta mall.

Asinas said the suspects took among other things 10 boxes of noodles, 6 boxes of coffee, 1 box of cooking oil, 6 boxes of canned goods, kilos of rice, salt, and even garlic and onions.

They also took boxes of mineral water and packets of calamansi juice.

Asinas said the suspects listed everything they took in a notebook labeled "The Corps" and even put a name: Ian Luis D. Badecao III.

Asinas added that the suspects might have wanted to tell the authorities that they are holding themselves accountable for the food items they took.

"Maybe they are even planning to pay the management back," Asinas told reporters.

The suspects also included in the list three padlocks which they might have destroyed to get inside the supermarket, Asinas added.

He also said that the supermarket's liaison officer was awaiting the decision of management whether to file charges against the suspects.

Earlier, several kiosk operators at the Glorietta complained that their stalls were broken into.

One clothing store reported losing two shirts, while a cell phone store lost six cell phones and at least P15,000 worth of prepaid cards, police added.

The rebel soldiers are also being eyed as behind the robberies at the kiosks.

Asinas however said some of the kiosk owners had asked them to forego their investigation because they felt sorry for the "hungry rebel soldiers."

Drug couriers saved

By Tina Santos

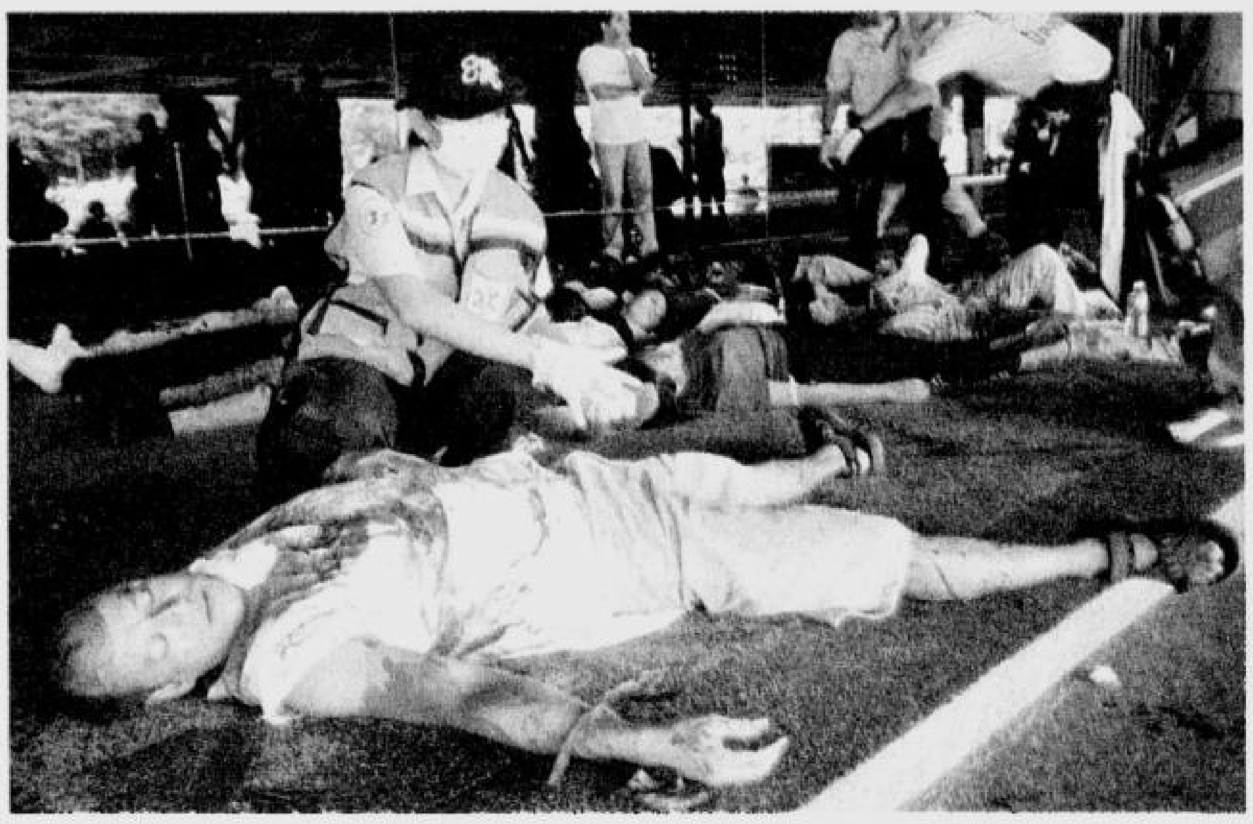
THE POLICE and barangay officials in Quezon City rescued on Wednesday 13-year-old female identical twins from a family who allegedly had been using them as drug couriers.

The police arrested suspects Junie Casing, 18; his grandmother Lucresia, 76; uncle Eduardo, 45; and housemate Ariel Villarin, 21, all of Pantranco, Barangay Sta. Cruz.

Junie is reportedly the former live-in partner of the twins' 15-year-old sister, who is now in the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development after the suspect impregnated her.

The twins' mother Rosalia told INQUIRER that one of the twins was even drunk when they were rescued at around 1 a.m.

Rosalia, 35, of Don Fabian Street, Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City, said she sought the help of the police after her children did not come home for two weeks and learned that they were being used to sell drugs.



JUST A DRILL

Personnel from the Department of Health conduct a bomb blast drill Wednesday at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex in Manila as part of the observance of the National Disaster Con-sciousness Month. An explosion during the bomb drill sent jitters to some residents who swamped police with calls, apparently thinking another coup attempt was being staged.

ERIK ARAZAS

4 boys wait for mom's release

By Tarra Quismundo

FOUR young boys have been patiently waiting for their mother's release from the detention cell of the Western Police District Station 10 in Pandacan, Manila, since Tuesday.

Jomari, 10, Jonathan, 7, Mario, 6, and Jay-jay, 4, have been coming back to the station to check on their mother, Rosemary Antonio who was detained for allegedly duping Ma. Elcisa de Sesto of P500 in exchange for a non-existent cell phone. The boys' youngest brother, 8-month-old Jopet, who is still being breast-fed, is with their mother inside the detention cell.

Last Monday, Antonio had claimed that Jomari was kicked out of his school for failing to pay the fees. She was then looking for P80 supposedly to pay the school. But the school has denied charging their students.

The next day, Antonio, who was with a certain Gina, allegedly tricked De Sesto into giving them P500 for a Nokia 8210. But they were not able to give De Sesto the cell phone.

"I admit that I was selling her the cell phone, but I never took the money," Antonio said in Filipino.

She claimed it was Gina who took the money. She also insisted that she was just being set up.

PO1 Raylene Cruz said De Sesto was willing to drop the charges if the two women would return her money. He said the victim felt sorry for Antonio and her children.

Cruz is familiar with Antonio and her family. He said they frequently went to the station to ask the policemen there for help.

But Barangay 833 Councilor Ireneo Enriquez said they have received countless complaints from residents against Antonio.

"You can find her name in almost half of our record of complaints," he said. "But she was never charged with any crime because the complainants took pity on her children."

Cruz said Antonio, who has been involved in cases of unsettled sales of cell phones, would do and say anything to get money.

"That's why many people are angry at her. She is good at making people believe her stories," Cruz said.

Antonio's fellow detainee, Myra Parcillana, 21, said Antonio was a kind person, but was assertive whenever her neighbors pushed her around.

"Her family has no source of income, that's why she does those things. I sometimes help them because there are times when they have nothing to eat," Parcillana said in Filipino.

Antonio, who said she was a laundrywoman paid P150 a week, said they only get to eat once a day. Her husband, Mario, 36, is unemployed.

Their home are two tables, each as big as a single bed, joined side by side. The walls of their home are made of thin blankets. Their roof is a rusty piece of galvanized iron and several cardboards.

DND chief should resign

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo knew all along about the impending mutiny. Military intelligence kept her up to date on the plans and movements by the mutinous troops.

That's why she expected a coup attempt during the weekend. This was a front-page story on Sunday in the INQUIRER.

The President just didn't know how and where the plotters would stage their coup-coup-rue adventure.

* * *

"The military intelligence did an excellent job, for which I'm all praises," the President said during cocktails in Malacanang on the evening after she delivered her State of the Nation Address (Sona) Monday.

Although her voice was a bit hoarse apparently from lack of sleep Saturday and Sunday, she looked composed and fresh.

In contrast, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo looked pooped and needed a bed rest.

* * *

Asked how his wife managed to look fresh and composed after what she'd been through, Arroyo said, "Apparently, she enjoys what she's doing."

After three years, GMA has completely grown into the presidency from a tiny girl who was groping in the dark. Make no mistake about it: she knows what she's doing every step of the way.

* * *

Now that she has let go of the military intelligence chief, Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, the President should also think of accepting the resignation of her defense secretary.

Secretary Angelo Reyes is very unpopular among the troops. He's a burden on Ms Macapagal's shoulders. I'm sorry, Angie, I consider you my idol and friend. But you have become a liability to the administration.

* * *

When Mike Arroyo asked me in front of Reyes at Monday night's cocktails if I could defend the defense chief from criticisms, I didn't want to destroy the evening and said, "Oh, he's my friend."

I wanted to tell Reyes that most of the officers I talked with who are either retired or in the active service perceive him to be corrupt. I stress "perceive" because these officers said they didn't have evidence.

But there is talk—very widespread—within the Armed Forces that Reyes' wife and children cornered the purchase of supplies for the troops when he was chief of staff. Ms Reyes also got big cuts from contractors undertaking AFP projects, according to my sources.

* * *

By the way, two of the mutineers who are members of Philippine Military Academy Class '95 were assigned to the Department of National Defense.

They probably know a lot of things about Reyes, that's why they joined the mutiny.

I'm not saying the government should go easy on those guys—everything should be thrown at them, including the kitchen sink for the grave crime, mutiny being punishable by firing squad in wartime. I'm saying there could be truth to some of the allegations of the mutineers.

* * *

However, their allegation that the defense chief was involved in selling arms to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and that he had a hand in the two bombings in Davao City are out of this world.

Some generals and colonels in the field probably made some "business deals" with the Moro rebels. They should be uncovered, courtmartialed and given lethal injection.

But it's impossible that Reyes, as defense secretary, would stoop so low as to engage in selling arms to the enemy. Besides, buying arms, much less selling them, is not within the power of the defense secretary but the AFP chief of staff.

It's also impossible for him to kill innocent civilians to pave the way for the declaration of martial law. Reyes is a very intelligent man and he knows that the President can't declare martial law without Congress concurrence.

* * *

The mutineers were well financed. They had sophisticated equipment like satellite phones and two-way radios which are not issued to troops in the field.

A few days before Sunday, many of the mutineers had checked in at the Oakwood Premier, a high-class apartelle. They wore civilian clothes when they rented rooms.

Intelligence reports identified the source of the money the mutineers spent to Bingo Bonanza, a bingo franchise owned by JV Ejercito, son of deposed President Erap.

* * *

Bingo Bonanza has 20 outlets nationwide and each outlet earns millions of pesos daily, according to intelligence reports.

Military intelligence officials have recommended to the President the revocation of the franchise issued to Bingo Bonanza.

That's one of the reasons Erap has been linked to the mutiny.

* * *

My Malacañang source said that although Victor Corpus' resignation as chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces was accepted by the President, he won't be idle for long.

Corpus will be given a job that will keep him close to the Palace.

"The President rewards people who are loyal to him," said my Palace spy.

Libre greets balikbayans, guests at NAIA

By Cathy Yamsuan

WAITING for a relative coming home from abroad will no longer have to be a bore after the formal launch yesterday of the INQUIRER Libre at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Naia General Manager Edgar Manda and Philippine Daily Inquirer president Alexandra Prieto Romualdez led the launch of the free paper, which will be given to greeters and welcomers at the Naia Terminal I arrival area.

Ms Romualdez, however, said the INQUIRER had been distributing 3,000 copies of Libre at the Naia Terminal One since July 7.

Naia is the fourth public venue where Libre is given freely as part of the INQUIRER's aggressive readership campaign.

"We want to make waiting more enjoyable for those waiting for their loved ones at the greeters' area. And with Libre at the airport, we are now reaching to a new reader segment—those arriving from various international destinations and their families," Prieto explained.

Other places where Libre is given for free are the WG&A-Eva Macapagal port at the North Harbor, Lines 1 and 2 of the Light Railway Transit and the Metrostar Railway Transit.

The launch was marked by Manda gladly receiving a framed copy of the INQUIRER's March 26 front page.

That edition showcased a photograph of the General Manager scratching his head while being scolded by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President publicly berated Manda that time after seeing lax security at the Naia.

"I plan to display this in my office so it will always remind me of the President's concern for security," he said.

PDI president Sandy Prieto Romualdez and NAIA general manager Edgar Manda distribute copies of Inquirer Libre Wednesday to all welcomers at the airport.

ROGER MARGALLO

Shopping spree gives away bank robbers

BROTHERS Reynaldo and Gerry Antonio bought a multi-cab and a refrigerator even when they had no steady jobs.

The shopping spree gave them away and led to their arrest by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation in Cagayan de Oro last week for their alleged participation in the July 17 robbery of a Union Bank branch on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City.

Neighbors of the Antonios reported to authorities the brothers' lavish spending. They were also reported to have bundles of cash.

Last July 25, Special Agent Alex Carbonay confronted the brothers, who requested for protection in exchange for divulging the identities of their companions in the bank heist.

After they were given legal counsel, the brothers admitted to their participation in the bank robbery and identified the other suspects as Miguel Abrasada, Vic Josing, David and Boy.

Another suspect, Danilo Francisco, was identified as the source of the firearms used in the robbery. He was arrested in a separate operation. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Makati taps elderly in smoking ban drive

By Margaux Ortiz

DON'T be surprised if a septuagenarian nabs you in Makati City for smoking.

The Makati City government yesterday deputized about 25 senior citizens to apprehend violators of the city's anti-smoking ordinance.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay said in a statement the senior citizens will be mandated to enforce the ordinance even when no policeman or personnel of the Makati Public Safety Department (Mapsa) is around.

Binay also said that the senior citizens would be equipped with identification cards and badges.

The mayor added that the senior citizens would also be authorized to collect the corresponding fines from the violators.

"We believe senior citizens would be credible and effective enforcers because they naturally command the respect of other people, compelling them to observe the ordinance out of basic decency," Binay said.

Binay's spokesperson, Carmelito Anzures, said the senior citizens had earlier asked for "assignments" so they could become productive once more.

Anzures said the mayor gave in to their request, noting that senior citizens usually set "good examples" since most of them don't smoke and would surely be vigilant in enlightening young people on the hazards of smoking.

School drug tests set in September

By Dona Pazzibugan

SURPRISE drug tests in high schools and colleges will start in September, according to the Department of Education.

The Dangerous Drugs Board has approved on Friday the guidelines for the conduct of random drug tests on high school and college students.

Starting in September, drug test teams composed of health and education officials would start going to selected high schools and colleges nationwide.

"We're excited to start after all the effort we've put in," said Thelma Guerrero-Santos, director of the DepEd's health and nutrition division.

The DepEd has been working with other agencies since June to come up with the guidelines.

The Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 requires mandatory random drug testing for students, as well as government employees, law enforcers and political candidates.

The drug tests would cover both public and private high schools and colleges and even technical schools.

Santos said they would spend the next month training and orienting their officers and principals.

On the third week of August, the DepEd would hold a two-day conference among their regional directors and coordinators.

These in turn would train high school principals.

The Commission on Higher Education (Ched) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) would take care of the colleges and universities.

On the first week of September, Santos said they would pilot test in selected schools in Metro Manila.

Depending on the outcome, she said they can still amend the guidelines.

The guidelines also have to be published before they take effect.

Representatives of the National Youth Commission would also join the drug test teams.

During a briefing in Iloilo City two weeks ago, President Macapagal-Arroyo told DepEd officials to wrap up the discussion quickly so the drug tests can start.

The President has vowed to step up the anti-drug campaign.

More shabu labs target of new raids

By Alcuin Papa

MORE shabu laboratories will be raided in the days to come.

A ranking official of the Southern Police District (SPD) revealed to the INQUIRER yesterday that at least five more shabu laboratories in the southern part of Metro Manila were due to be raided by narcotic operatives.

"*Meron pa 'yan. 'Di bababa ng lima* (There's more, at least five)," said the official who asked that his name not be published.

While he did not reveal the probable location of the shabu laboratories, the source said they were closely watching several places within exclusive villages in the cities of Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Parañaque and Pasay.

The official added that the shabu laboratories were believed to be part of the drug network of alleged drug lords Benito Sy and Jackson Sy, who were recently arrested by the Philippine National Police, the SPD and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

SPD director Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez said shabu manufacturers had been setting up laboratories inside affluent villages and subdivision because of the tight security that these provide.

Gutierrez has ordered intensified patrols in such villages and to link up with barangay officials and local security forces.

He also urged barangay officials to conduct a survey in their areas and report suspicious-looking residents or tenants.

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METROBRIEFS

Sweeping action in QC

QUEZON City residents are rushing to the streets and are rising up against the filth and garbage of their barangays. Armed with brooms, dustpans and garbage bags, the residents are heeding the call of Mayor Feliciano Belmonte to clean up their communities as the local government hunts for the cleanest barangay in the city. All the city's 142 barangays are automatically included as candidates to the search. A P50,000 cash prize awaits the cleanest barangay. There will be one winner for each of the city's four districts. Special prizes of P30,000 will go to barangays that will improve garbage handling and disposal in their turf. *Tina Santos*

Caloocan 'strip-joint' rises

A STRIP-JOINT is about to rise in the middle of Edsa and it is expected to make Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo proud. The P3-million project consists of a mini park built on a six-meter by 100-meter strip that will be joined to the historic Bonifacio Monument. The center island on Edsa is currently being removed to give way to the construction of the "strip" that will feature historic shrines and displays depicting important moments of the country's past. The strip will be joined to the Monumento circle park to create a mini park at the mid-end of the busy thoroughfare. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Fleur de Lis sings adieu

THE FLEUR De Lis auditorium of St. Paul College, Manila, which became one of the more popular venues for musical and dramatic stage presentations in the late 60's and early 70's will temporarily say adieu to its countless patrons of the arts and culture. The auditorium will be renovated and its equipment and facilities upgraded. As a fitting tribute to a great institution, the Communication Arts Theater of SPC Manila will showcase a stage adaptation of the classic film "The Sound of Music" tomorrow, Aug. 1, at 5 p.m. Tickets are available at the gates. Wilfrida Nepomuceno, daughter of actor-impressionist Willie Nepomuceno and singer Susana Pichay, reprises the role of the Mother Superior in the "Sound of Music."

Binay appeals 2 'Xs'

The Makati City government yesterday asked the Movie and Television Review Classification Board (MTRCB) to lift the X-rating on two foreign films scheduled to be screened at the Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival next week. The MTRCB earlier stamped an X-rating on the French film "Swimming Pool" and the Thai film "Blissfully Yours" because of their alleged sexual content. Mayor Jejomar Binay said, "We hope that the open-mindedness shown by some MTRCB members in allowing the screening of several controversial films would be applied to all films scheduled for screening at the Cinemanila." *Margaux Ortiz*

His life for his valuables

AN 18-YEAR-OLD student was shot to death after he tried to fight off a suspected robber who held him up Tuesday night in Quezon City. Daniel Arguel of San Isidro Street, Caloocan City, was hanging out at the park at the Quezon Memorial Circle at about 10 p.m. when a man accosted him and declared a holdup. Despite the suspect being armed with a handgun, Arguel reportedly refused to hand over his money and jewelry. A shot rang out as the two reportedly scuffled and the victim fell bloodied to the ground. He was shot in the head. Promenaders rushed Arguel to the East Avenue Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival. The suspect fled. *Tina Santos*

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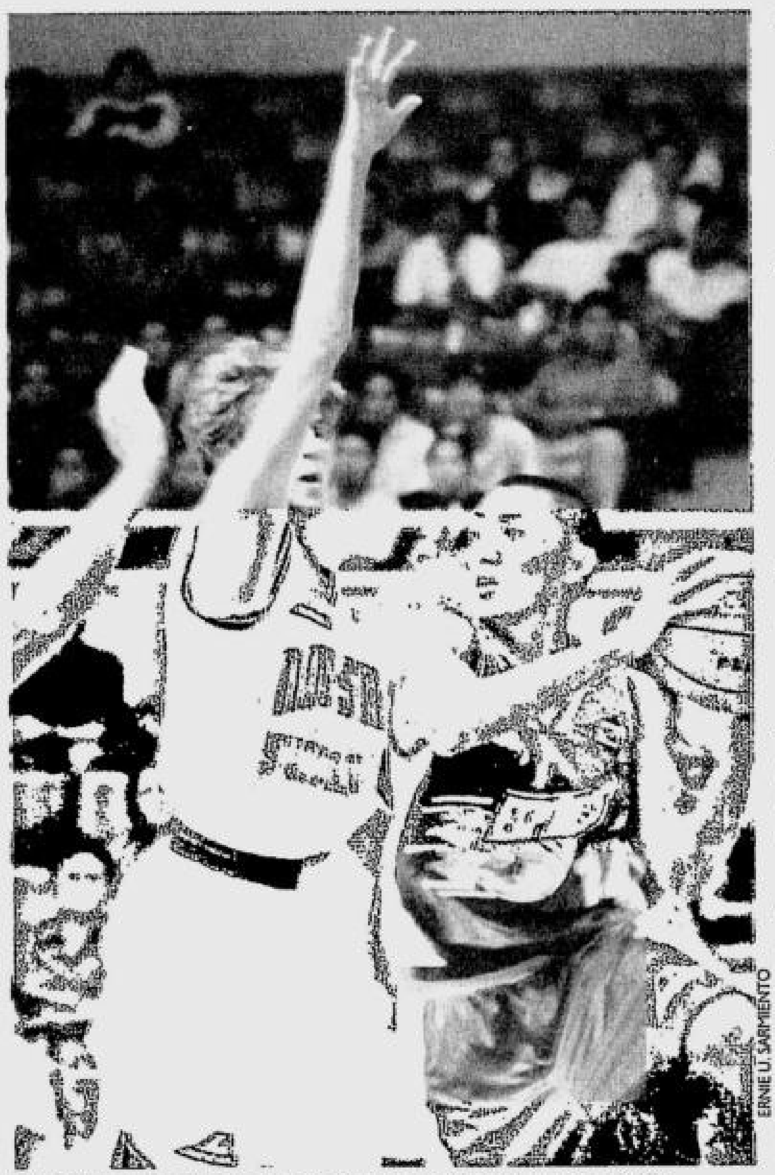
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

HAPEE-Novi Sad's Predrag Radovanovic (left) harasses FedEx Express' Renren Ritualo in yesterday's PBA Invitational game.

FedEx cuts down towering Yugoslavs

GAMES TOMORROW (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
5 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs San Miguel
7:30 p.m.—Yonsei U vs Talk 'N Text

By June Navarro

FEDEX cut Novi Sad of Yugoslavia down to size with a 98-81 victory last night in the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Vergel Meneses and John Ferriols combined for 40 points while Wynne Arboleda snatched seven of the Express' 23 record-breaking steals that produced 35 turnover points and 12 fastbreak markers.

The 23 steals of the Express broke a 24-year record by Toyota when the Supercorollas stole the ball 20 times in a winning effort against Great Taste in 1979.

"We know that Novi Sad has a very tall lineup. To negate their height, we had to use our quickness, and luckily it paid off," said FedEx coach Derrick Pumaren.

In the other game, Alaska subdued Magnolia-Jilin, 97-82, to join San Miguel Beer, Red Bull Barako and FedEx in the winners' circle.

Succumbing to the full-court pressure applied by the Express, the visitors turned the ball over 45 times, eclipsing Tanduay's record of futility (40) against Country Fair in 1984.

First Game

FEDEX 98—Meneses 22, Ferriols 18, Yap 12, Ritualo 9, De Ocampo 8, Arboleda 8, Ortiguerra 7, Billones 6, Codinera 5, Rodriguez 2, Ejercito 1.

NOVI SAD-YUGOSLAVIA 81—Radovanovic 20, Subasic 20, Beljanski 14, Popovic 12, Vilic 6, Todorovic 4, Delic 2, Jelicic 2, Repac 1, Vukelic 0.

Quarters: 19-24, 44-33, 70-53, 98-81

Second Game

ALASKA 97—Peek 26, Cablay 15, Allado 15, Arigo 14, Cortez 9, Feihl 7, Duat 4, Padilla 3, Castro 2, Noble 2, Tejada 0, Ordonio 0.

MAGNOLIA-JILIN 82— Li A. 21, Wang 14, Zhao 13, Sun 8, Wang Y. 6, Wang H. 6, Nie 4, Li 2.

Quarters: 28-19, 54-40, 80-59, 97-82

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Patafa head on the Go

IT'S back to work for athletics chief Go Teng Kok.

Fully recovered from two gunshot wounds he sustained in a bungled assassination attempt on July 1, Go celebrated his 59th birth anniversary with a thanksgiving mass and luncheon party at the Patafa offices inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex yesterday.

"I'm back to work although my doctors at St. Luke's advised me to take it easy," said Go who is hosting the 2003 Asian Athletics Association Championships in September.

Go reiterated his desire to push through with his candidacy for a seat in the executive council of the powerful International Association of Athletics Federation. He will fly to Paris Aug. 17 in time for the elections on August 23. He will stay there until the end of the World Championships on Aug. 30.

"I am thankful to God that I'm still alive," said Go. "I want to take this occasion to thank the judo players who brought me to the hospital," referring to the Lucero brothers, Christopher and Aristotle, their father-coach Dionisio and Jansen Benjamin.

GO with track legend Muros, who is eight months pregnant.

Go also thanked staff of the Ospital ng Maynila for the medical attention given him before he was transferred to St. Luke's.

Among those who greeted Go were athletics legends Lydia de Vega-Mercado and Elma Muros-Posadas, POC president Celso Dayrit, former PSC chair Philip Juico, weightlifting head and Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, softball president and Manila Rep. Harry Angping, taekwondo president and POC chair Robert Aventajado, Philta and Asian Tennis federation chief Col. Buddy Andrada, BAP's Tiny Literal and pencak silat's Sultan Kiram and former Immigration commissioner Rufus Rodriguez.

Roy Luarca

Archers seek 4th straight vs Tams

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
11 a.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle (Srs)
6 p.m.—NU vs La Salle (Jrs)

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	3	0
FEU	3	1
UE	2	1
Ateneo	2	2
UST	2	2
Adamson	1	2
NU	1	3
UP	0	3

FAR Eastern mentor Koy Banal thinks he has found the magic formula to stop La Salle's surprising run in the UAAP men's basketball championship.

"La Salle's press is deadly and effective because the Archers are overflowing with enthusiasm. To beat La Salle, we must counter their enthusiasm with our own enthusiasm," Banal said.

Whether the formula works will be known today when Far Eastern, the 1997 champion, takes a crack at La Salle's unbeaten 3-0 mark at 4 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Defending champion Ateneo eyes its third straight win against Adamson at 1:30 p.m.

Rookie-laden but flashing the same intensity that rewarded them with four straight titles from 1998 to 2001, the Archers get going fresh from a week-long rest. Their game against the Falcons last July 27 was reset due to the failed uprising by disgruntled soldiers in Makati.

La Salle's last victim was title-favorite UE, 84-65, last July 24.

Dennis U. Eroa

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

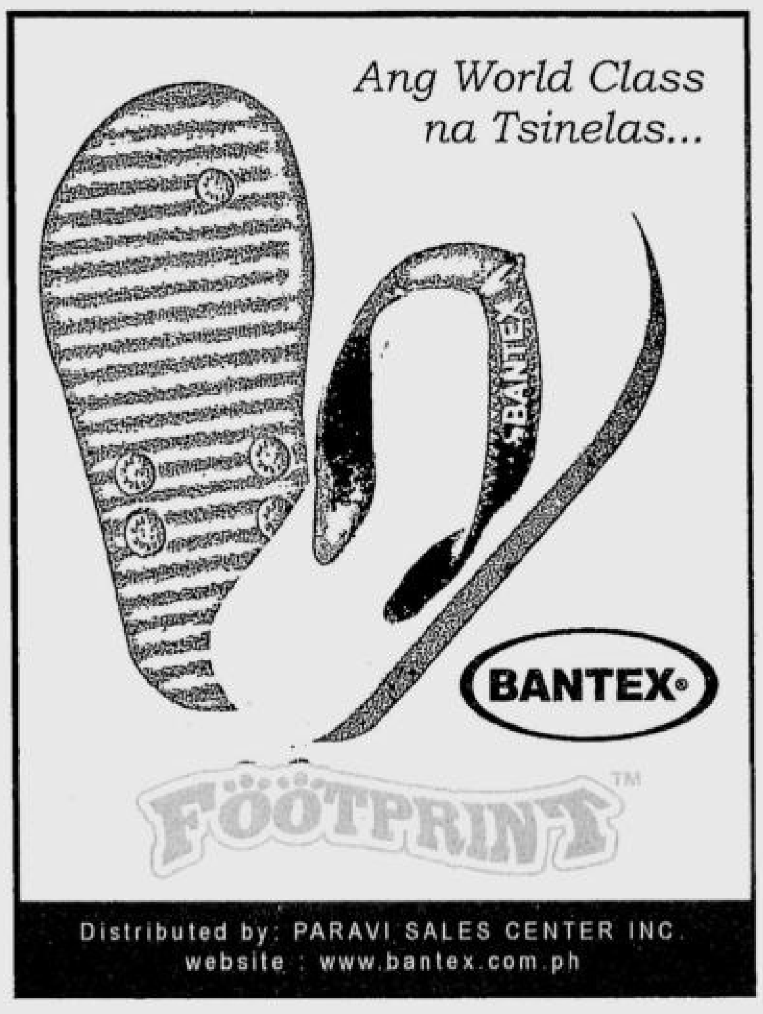
BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (r) and 7 p.m.; ESPN—Django Bustamante takes on Radoslaw Babica and Earl Strickland, respectively.

BASKETBALL: Lakers vs Kings; 2002 Western Conference Finals, Game 4; 8 a.m. (r - 5 p.m.); Game 5; 11 a.m. (r - 10 p.m.): Solar Sports—See how LA and Sacramento engaged in one of the more memorable playoff series in the NBA.

GOLF: Canadian Women's Open; 10 a.m.; ESPN—Catch the final round of this LPGA event north of the border.

Inside the PGA Tour; 2:30 p.m. (r - 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.); Star Sports—Find out more about the PGA and its players in this weekly program.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.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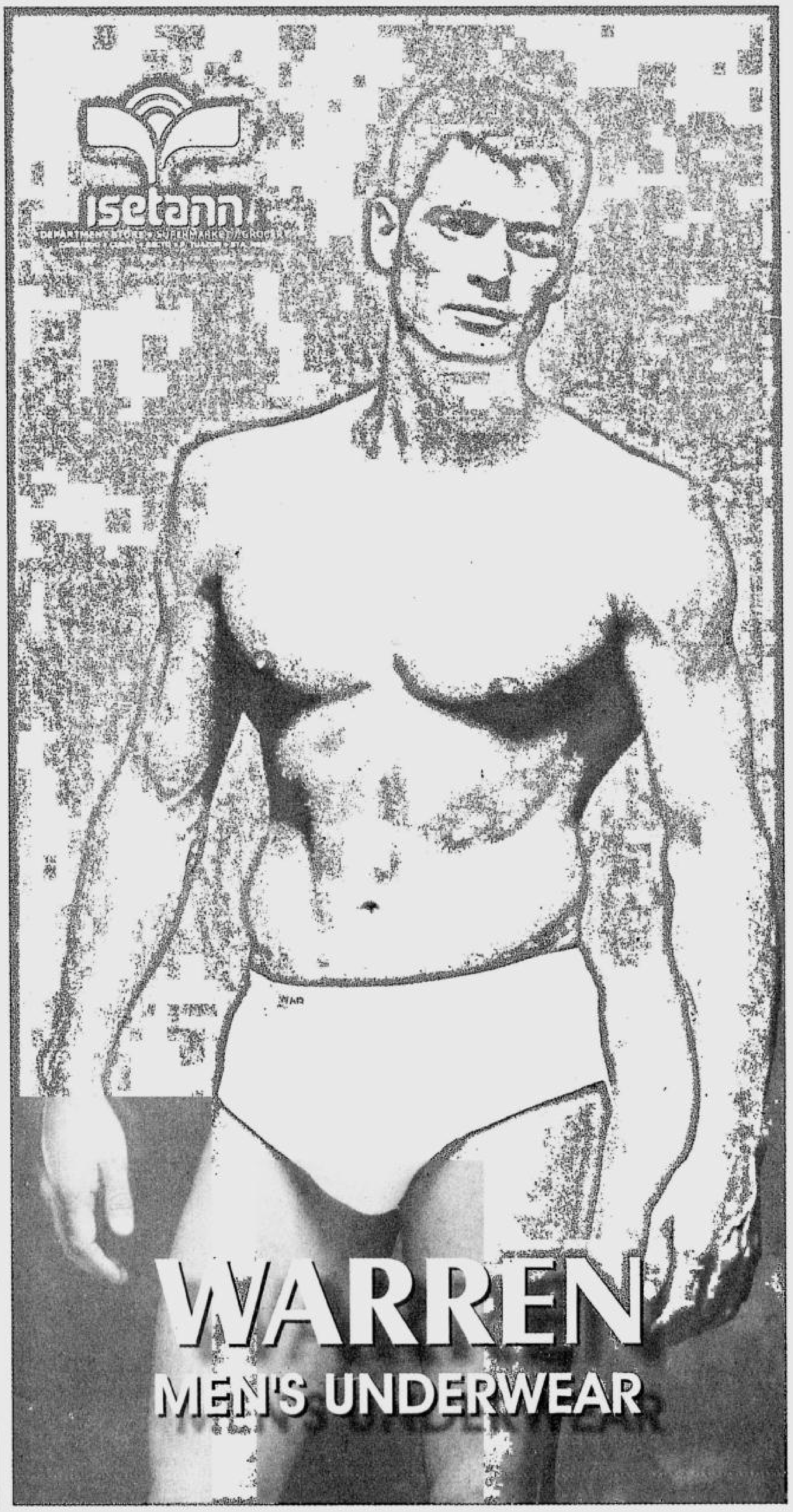
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MEN'S UNDERWEAR

UAAP thumbs down Eala plea on 4 cagers

THE UNIVERSITY Athletic Association of the Philippines yesterday stuck to its original decision barring four of the league's stars who are strong national team candidates from joining the Cebuana Lhuillier-RP Team in the ongoing Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship.

UAAP president Jose Capistrano Jr. of Ateneo said the board had decided unanimously to turn down a PBA request that James Yap and Paul Artadi of UE and Ateneo's Wesley Gonzales and Rich Alvarez be allowed to play for the national squad.

In denying PBA Commissioner Noli Eala's appeal, Capistrano cited scheduling problems with respect to the UAAP games, the players' regular classes and the high risk of injury since the four will be playing almost on a daily basis.

"Our players have at least two games a week and practise daily. They cannot fit in a practice with the RP team and play in the PBA Invitational," said Capistrano.

"In instances where players play continuously or with little rest, there is a high risk of injury. And lastly, UAAP players are students and they need to attend classes and do their homework as well."

Capistrano also said the request of Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim to include UAAP players in the Cebuana Lhuillier team came late in the day.

He said he received the BAP request barely three days before the UAAP opening on July 12.

Capistrano stressed that the UAAP's commitment to the BAP was only for the Asian Basketball Confederation tournament and the Southeast Asian Games.

But since the ABC was moved to a later schedule from its Sept. 3-12 staging in China, the UAAP also thumbed it down.

June Navarro

Hot Knights, Bombers catch Lions

By June Navarro

RONJAY Enrile came up with another sparkling endgame act as Letran drubbed Philippine Christian, 84-72, yesterday to secure a share of the lead in the 79th NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

Fast emerging as the Knights' savior at crunch time, the 6-foot Enrile scored half of his game-high 24 points in the last quarter as the Intramuros-based dribblers wrapped up their first-round campaign with a 5-2 win-loss record, in a deadlock with idle San Beda.

The Jose Rizal Heavy Bombers later made it a three-way tie at the top by downing the Perpetual Help Altas, 78-73.

"It's a good sign. We just have to keep our momentum going in the second round to preserve what we have started," said Letran coach Louie Alas, who steered the Knights to the 1998 NCAA crown.

Enrile, the 2000 junior MVP, also buried three triples even as the Dolphins self-destructed, missing 14 of 35 charities in the final half.

The Altas fell to 2-5 as they continued their skid after a 2-0 start.

The Squires made it a Letran double by thumping the Baby Dolphins, 83-72.

Scores:

First Game (jrs)

LETRAN 83—Morial 22, Butuin 15, Tajao 13, Lapitan 6, Musni 5, Abdon 5, Martin 5, Tagarda 4, Ruiz 3, Reodique 2, Salazar 2, Espiritu 1, Latonio 0, Pasana 0, Mariwa 0.

PCU 72—Carlobos 24, Doria 14, Al-hussaini 12, Hernandez 8, Gonzaga 3, Roxas 3, Concha 2, Umlas 2, Zapanta 2, Flores 1, Enriquez 1, Dela Torre 0.

Quarters: 19-16, 37-33, 62-48, 83-72

Second Game (srs)

LETRAN 84—Enrile 24, Fedelicio 13, Pinera 10, Aldave 6, Reyes 8, Bautista 7, Aban 5, Rodriguez 5, Santos 4, Anabo 0, Ebajay 0.

PCU 72—Garrido 16, Roque 15, Sanz 12, Relaga 8, Castro 7, Acraman 5, Cecilia 3, Belga 3, Senining 2, Guiyab 1, Salangsang 0.

Quarters: 22-12, 39-32, 58-50, 84-72

Third Game (srs)

JOSE RIZAL 78—Coyukang 18, Berberan 13, Te 11, Fajardo 10, Santos 9, Domangcas 6, Lindaya 6, Jorge 5, Paule 0, Altunaga 0, Magtahao 0, Serios 0, De Vera 0.

UPHR 73—Cuenco 20, Misa 18, Joe 12, Javiere 10, Baruson 7, Quiazon 5, Balboa 1, Santos 0, Aseron 0, Burgos 0.

Quarters:16-15, 29-30, 53-47, 78-73

LETRAN'S Jonathan Pinera drives off PCU's Carlos Martin Cecilia in yesterday's game won by the Knights.

RUDY ESPERAS

New SEAG outfitter for RP delegation

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT'S Accel, not Adidas, that will be on the uniforms of what is expected to be a 600-strong Philippine team to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit announced this in yesterday's general assembly meeting where the initial roster of 377 athletes to the Dec. 5-13 SEAG was unanimously approved.

No explanation was given why Adidas, which had long provided the competition paraphernalia of previous RP campaigns, was junked this time in favor of Accel, a sports firm headed by former officials of Adidas Philippines.

The Philippine Sports Commission, which had earlier fought the POC for the right to choose the delegation's official outfitter, had no comment on the issue.

The assembly also approved the tarsier and festival mask as the country's mascot and logo, respectively, in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games in Manila.

The assembly also set a Sept. 30 deadline for all national sports association to submit their entries to the SEAG by name, but failed to discuss how many officials and coaches will accompany the athletes.

Close to 110 athletes are still hoping to join the delegation even as the GA approved the participation of the men's and women's volleyball teams which failed to make the criteria but carry strong potentials because of their height and age.

Asuncion stuns UK bet, gains last 32

FILIPINO Kennevic Asuncion overcame a highly partisan crowd to post a pulsating 17-14, 15-8 upset win over Briton Andrew Smith Tuesday and advance into the last 32 of the IBF World Badminton Championships at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, England.

Unfazed by his rival's world No. 37 ranking, Asuncion outlasted Smith in the extended first set before dominating the next to end the 41-minute match on Court 2 in an upset-marred opening round of the annual championships.

But Asuncion will climb a mountain when he faces 8th seed Korean Lee Hyun-il Wednesday.

In mixed doubles, Kennivic and his sister Kennie lost to Indonesian's Anggun and Eny, 6-15, 9-15.

Malaysian Roslin Hashim shocked 12th seed Thai Open champion Boonsak, 15-12, 15-9, and his brother Muhammad Hafiz routed fancied Russian Stanislav Pukhov, 15-5, 15-5.

Meanwhile, Kennevic's fine start in the world event is expected to augur well for the ace Filipino's campaign in the upcoming JVC Open which starts Aug. 25 at the Glorietta in Makati.

Mueller makes ML history

ARLINGTON, Texas— Boston's Bill Mueller became the first player in major league history to hit grand slams from both sides of the plate in a game, connecting for three homers to lead the Red Sox over the Texas Rangers 14-7 Tuesday.

Mueller, batting left-handed, hit a solo homer in the third inning against RA Dickey. Batting right-handed, he hit his first slam off Aaron Fultz in the seventh for a 9-4 lead. One inning later, he homered from the left side against Jay Powell.

"I'm just trying to have some good at-bats," Mueller said.

Mueller had a career-high nine RBIs with the first three-homer game of his career. He has 13 homers this season and four career slams.

It was the 12th time a player hit two slams in a game, the first since Boston's Nomar Garciaparra against Seattle on May 10, 1999. *AP*

MUELLER: 9 RBIs.

Why no sports in Sona

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE SENSATIONAL victory of Manny Pacquiao on Sunday has merited praise from President Macapagal-Arroyo. Said the President: "Pacquiao is a Filipino model. Given a chance to compete abroad, he will take it and win." She uttered that—or words to that effect—during her State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday, July 28.

Hearing her say that, my heart skipped a beat. Pacquiao gave us reason to be proud once more to be a Filipino. His third-round knockout win over Mexican challenger Emmanuel Lucero completely overshadowed that failed Sunday Siege in Makati.

In victory, Pacquiao did not only underscore the Filipino's world-famed skills in boxing. It also put the country back to its old place of greatness on the world stage—through sports.

But, alas, even as the President heaped praise on Pacquiao, her speech, as a whole, sorely lacked the killer punch insofar as the country's directions in sports was concerned.

The SEA Games in Vietnam is barely four months away. The Athens Olympics is 13 months away. The country is set to host the Games in 2005. The police have yet to reach first base in their investigation of the assassination attempt on track and field chief Go Teng Kok.

That's just four of sports' pressing business at the moment. And that is just for starters. What about the thrice-postponed Palarong Pambansa in Mindanao's Tubod? That's another problem aching to be solved.

Ms Macapagal seems to put low priority to sports and I can understand that.

Our country is reeling both from economic woes and political instability. It is normal in nations fractured by social iniquities and tattooed by mutinies and rebellions to see sports as a mere spectator stuck in the fringes. At times, sulking.

Athletes are almost left to fend for themselves. To Ms Macapagal's credit, she is extremely generous to those who'd come home lugging trophies or wearing medals around their necks. Praises are followed by the handing out of cash as rewards as in the cases of previous overseas winners like cue artist Bata Reyes, golfer Dottie Ardina and, yes, Pacquiao.

Produce first, then your purse. Kaliwaan.

Not really a bad policy. We are a third world country and third world countries live in want. We don't have much money, let alone time, to deal with sports. We'd rather that we pour cash into programs that address people's basic needs: food, shelter, clothing, education, jobs, medical security.

Olympic medals are usually only for America and other first world countries because economic prosperity automatically becomes sports' lifeline.

In our case, since we are not yet first-world, government presence in sports comes mostly through dole outs from the Philippine Sports Commission. But the PSC can only do so much because of its shoestring budget for athletic development. When corporations, foundations or businessmen themselves come forward and toss in some money for sports, it becomes a celebration like rain falling in midsummer.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's digging from the kitty of his foundation to give to the PSC coffers for use in the Vietnam Games was laudable, not to mention his move to also generously help chess attain both its short- and long-term goals.

Next, we see Rod Feliciano stepping forward and making his giant DHL company as chief sponsor of the Philippine Open this November at the Manila Golf Club. Applause, applause.

And what's this I hear that Manila Mayor Lito Atienza will soon link up with Edgardo "Boy" Cantada to bankroll Luisito Espinosa's bid to win a third world boxing title in the third Battle of Manila Bay at Luneta?

So, stop bickering over GMA missing out on sports during her State of the Nation Address, please?

In the first place, that wasn't unexpected. In the second place, she was still high on her military-backed victory over the Sunday Siege by mutineers in Makati just the day before. As always, it's military might that can readily prop up her government. Not sports. Never.

SPORTSWATCH

TJ Hotdogs stop Timex

THE PUREFOODS TJ Hotdogs Juniors subdued Timex, 74-65, Sunday for their first win in the 2nd Bert Lina Cup Six Footers basketball league at the Cebu Coliseum. The Hotdogs leveled their win-loss slate at 1-1 while pulling down Timex to 0-2 in the tournament confined to players 18 years and below and standing 6 feet and over. Other games saw Youth for Roco edge John O, 87-83, and Talk N Text clobber Samsung, 83-71. Lance Mendoza topscored for the Hotdogs with 21 points. Alfredo Gerilla led YFR with 28 points.

Baylon cops judo bronze

FIVE-TIME Southeast Asian Games champion John Baylon copped a bronze medal in the recent fifth World Masters Judo Championships held at The Kodokan in Tokyo, Japan. Baylon finished behind gold winner Nugzar Mesablishvili of Ukraine and silver medalist Sergey Lakniskiy in the under-81 kilogram class, age bracket 35 to 39. The other bronze medalist in the same class was Japan's Yuji Ozawa. "It's a good showing for John (Baylon) considering the tough field of entries from 30 countries," said Paja (Philippine Amateur Judo Association) president Rey Jaylo.

Paragua shares lead

FILIPINO GM-candidate Mark Paragua beat French IM Patrice Etchegaray in 45 moves of a King's Indian Defense to share the lead with three others after four rounds of the XV Open Cannes International Open Chess Championships in Cannes, France, yesterday. Paragua now has three wins and one draw for a total of 3.5 points along with GM Levy Ortega of Italy, GM Jean-Luc Chabanon of France, GM Miko Popchev of Bulgaria. Filipino IM Joseph Sanchez beat IM Dimitar Marholev of Bulgaria for a 3-1 card.

NM Marlon Bernardino

Rea's goal sparks UP

THE UP Ladies football squad beat the FEU lasses, 3-2, on a Rea Villa goal in the 5th minute of extra time last Sunday in the Samsung Ladies Open at the La Salle Zobel pitch. The petite striker outpaced three defenders to execute a perfect tap past the on-rushing FEU goalkeeper. FEU went up 1-0 early in the contest after an own goal by UP sweeper Kat Aguda in the 10th minute. But coach Mike Athab's UP girls battled to level the game at 1-1 on Elisa Benitez's first goal, fifteen minutes after the break. The referees showed the yellow card to three FEU players and red-carded their coach, Jo Loren, during the highly physical match. In the 72nd minute, FEU striker Gie Layosa put her team ahead, but Benitez struck her second goal and kept the UP belles alive.

7-stag showdown set

THE 16TH edition of the "Ray Showdown National 7—Stag Derby" will be held at the Roligon Mega Cockpit on Sept. 2 and 4 with a guaranteed prize of P1 million. Hosts are lawyer Romero Yu and Roligon manager Danny Ty, while official screeners are Mayor Juancho Aguirre and Mimi Itchon. Entry fee is P18,000. A total of 86 participants saw action last year, said Ty. Farm-to-farm screening will start on Aug. 7. Screening at Roligon will be held on Aug. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and 31, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Interested parties may contact 833-2275, 833-1638 or 0920-3074225.

LPC derby stakes P1M

A CASH prize of P1 million awaits the winner of the LPC Annual 6-Stag Derby on Aug. 25 and 27 at the Las Piñas Cockpit. The derby will be sponsored by Pagcor-Casino Filipino and Lakpue Drug Inc., makers of Washout Shampoo. Entry fee is P15,000 while the minimum bet is P11,000. The champions will also get three refrigerators. Screening will start this Saturday and Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Las Piñas Cockpit. Interested parties may contact 871-4343 and 871-4345 (Daisy) or 873-1040 (Las Piñas Cockpit).

Blaze drag race Saturday

THE FIRST round of the Blaze Shootout Drag Race Championship will be held this Saturday at Spur Road in Clark Field, Pampanga. Registration for the five-round drag series starts at 1 p.m. and race proper begins at 6 p.m. The Blaze Shootout championship is sponsored by Petron Ultron, Diesel Max and Blaze. Organizer Activity Asia Association expects some 60 drivers to join the event.

Great Quest 'survivors'

TEAM 202 0202, made up of John Aguilar, Noelle Wenceslao and Dexter Tiangco, ruled the recent Del Monte's The Great 202 Quest—a gruelling three-day 500-km adventure race that started at the Quezon Memorial Circle and ended at the Cagsawa Ruins in Albay. Team 202 0202 won P100,000. Team 202 Crush ng Bayan, composed of Carlo Ledesma, Charlene Lontoc and Ramon Oadilla Jr., finished second, ahead of the Team 202 Lucky of Tricia Chiongbian, Flip Corpus and Tristan Buan. Fourth was Team 202 Torpedoes of Rovilson Fernandez, Beatrix Quiogue and Bianca Fornier.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO LEISURE PARK By Mr. 999

Race 1--1. Voice of Destiny/Cable Car 2. Precious Time 3. Storm Princess 4. Jellbeanjoy

Race 2--1. Dulce My Love 2. Pride of Cabu 3. Perfect Gift

Race 3--1. Dedicated 2. My Prayer 3. Modulo Queen 4. Wild Guess

Race 4--1. Romario 2. Red Thunder 3. Hong Kong Girl 4. Absurd 5. Pep Up

Race 5--1. Deputy Orfa 2. Last Dance 3. Strong Colony

Race 6--1. Glory Alleluja 2. Ona Bay 3. Ocean Wings 4. Grupo Grupo 5. Magara

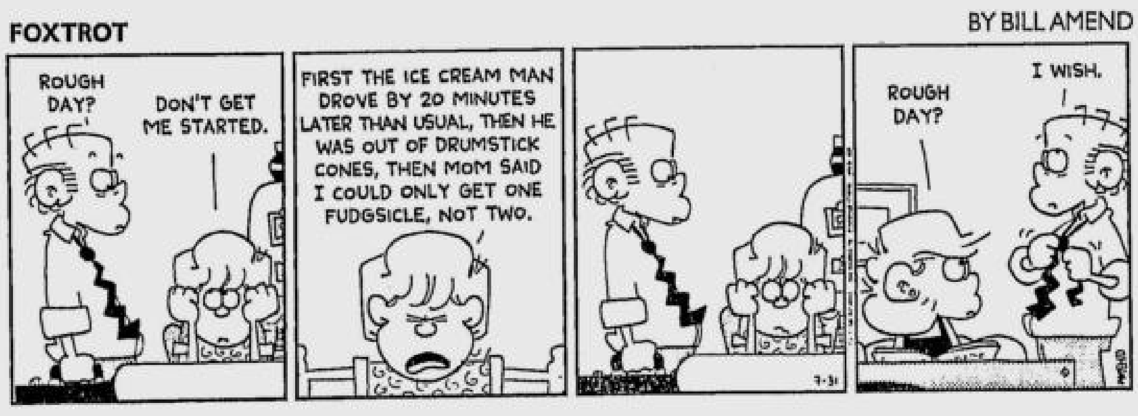
Race 7--1. Master Startegist 2. Dot Com 3. Ilocos Princess 4. Ayra's Pet

Race 8--1. Bakasan 2. Hurricane Doding 3. Eye of the Day

Race 9--1. Arbiter 2. Ocean Magic 3. Montpellier 4. Silver Lining 5. Pep Talk 6. Divine Right

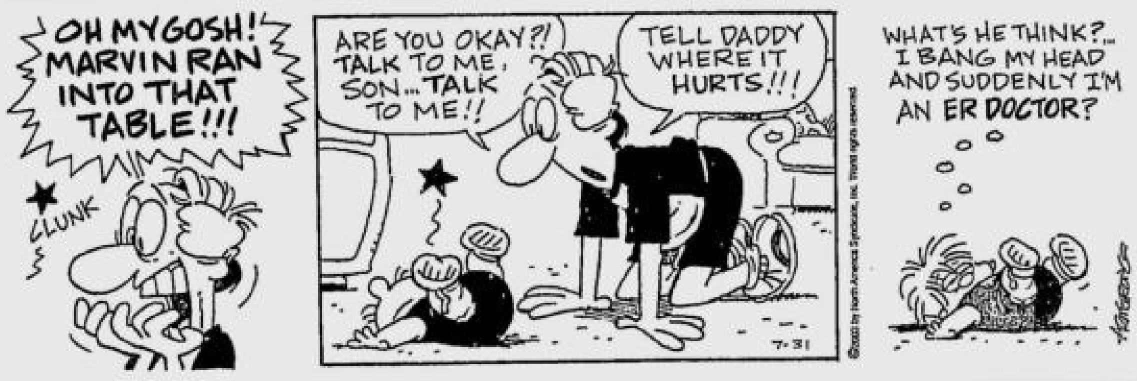
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


ROUGH DAY?
DON'T GET ME STARTED.
FIRST THE ICE CREAM MAN DROVE BY 20 MINUTES LATER THAN USUAL, THEN HE WAS OUT OF DRUMSTICK CONES, THEN MOM SAID I COULD ONLY GET ONE FUDGSICLE, NOT TWO.
7-31
ROUGH DAY?
I WISH.

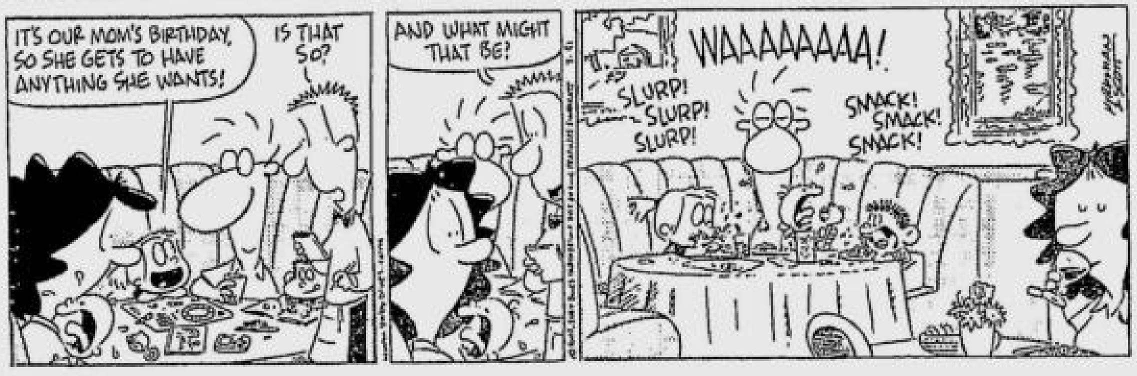
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


OH MYGOSH! MARVIN RAN INTO THAT TABLE!!!
CLUNK
ARE YOU OKAY?! TALK TO ME, SON...TALK TO ME!!
TELL DADDY WHERE IT HURTS!!!
7-31
WHAT'S HE THINK?... I BANG MY HEAD AND SUDDENLY I'M AN ER DOCTOR?

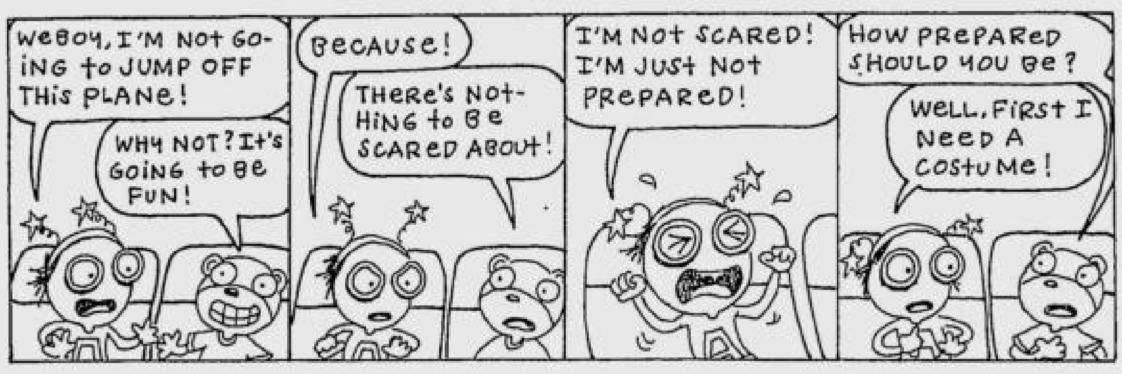
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


IT'S OUR MOM'S BIRTHDAY, SO SHE GETS TO HAVE ANYTHING SHE WANTS!
IS THAT SO?
AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?
WAAAAAAAA!
SLURP! SLURP! SLURP!
SMACK! SMACK! SMACK!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WeBOY, I'M NOT GOING TO JUMP OFF THIS PLANE!
WHY NOT? IT'S GOING TO BE FUN!
BECAUSE!
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED ABOUT!
I'M NOT SCARED! I'M JUST NOT PREPARED!
HOW PREPARED SHOULD YOU BE?
WELL, FIRST I NEED A COSTUME!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are extremely observant and careful with details. You're also enormously expressive in a talented way. You are interested in philosophical and moral questions, and stories about martyrs and saints. You have a strong need to communicate. Expect increased solitude this year to study and learn something important. **Birthdate of** J.K. Rowling, author; Wesley Snipes, actor; Dean Cain, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Upsets and surprises at work (for example, computer systems that crash) keep you on your toes today. Be patient. Do not hold rigidly to your plans and expectations.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Surprise flirtations catch you off guard—but pleasantly so. Exchanges with others make you feel younger and more alive! It seems as if the air around you has more electricity to it today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Don't give any lip to parents or authority figures today. Things will get out of hand too fast. Resist the temptation. It's not worth it. Be polite.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Don't attempt any important, detail-oriented tasks today. It's hard to keep your mind focused on one thing. Plus, interruptions will occur constantly throughout the day.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Be careful about impulse buying today. (You know who you are.) You can be very "large" with money, spending it on yourself and others. Caution against your knee-jerk reaction to do this.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): In conversations with others today, you might be too blunt and overly direct. Don't try to shock people. Conversely, someone might shock you in an unexpected way!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Try to develop a systematic approach to your job today in order to minimize errors. Your thinking is erratic, and you are easily distracted now. (It's happening to everyone.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): New or unusual people could challenge your thinking today. Even familiar faces will show you a new side of themselves. Be prepared for a few surprises.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your mind is racing today! You need to do anything you can to control it a bit. Don't try to do important, detailed work. Double-check everything for errors.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Unexpected opportunities to travel or to advance your education might present themselves today. Best to think it over for a day or two. Things are too scattered right now.

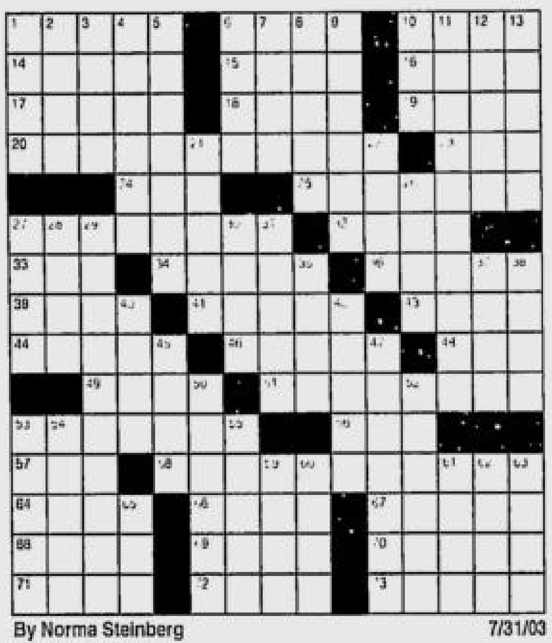
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Keep a sharp eye on your purse, your pocketbook, your wallet and your possessions. This is the classic day to misplace items or lose money. Stay on guard.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be extra patient and sweet with close friends and partners today. People feel frazzled! You do too, but you can easily be understanding and sympathetic. (For this, you can consider yourself lucky.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Create fish
6 Smile broadly
10 Annexes
14 Actress Shire
15 Puccini piece
16 Henhouse
17 Go-between
18 Edges
19 Option for Hamlet
20 Running level
23 __ Tin Tin
24 Inventor Whitney
25 Contributed
27 Forecasts
32 Busy person's list
33 Writer Deighton
34 Barely making do
36 Walked in water
39 Gambler's chances
41 Thread holder
43 Extra
44 "Mrs. Dalloway" writer
46 Type of boom
48 Corrida cheer
49 Electrical unit
51 Followed a temporary route
53 Flight attendant
56 Attila follower
57 Panama preposition
58 Verbatim
64 Mineable resources
66 Tightrope, e.g.
67 Transition
68 Annapolis inst.
69 Hunter or Connell
70 DeGeneres or Greene
71 Skater Eldredge
72 Obscene
73 Luges

DOWN
1 Jazzman Getz
2 Book increment
3 Actor Guinness
4 Shone fitfully
5 Portman of "Star Wars..."
6 Poet
7 Emerald Isle
8 Directed, as a weapon
9 Army's mule or Navy's goat
10 Behave
11 Canvass course
12 "The Many Loves of _ Gillis"
13 Use up
21 Shaving mishaps
22 Have memorized
26 West or Arkin
27 Farm tool
28 Start again from scratch
29 Tumbleweed's movement
30 Waitperson's income
31 Netlike cap
35 Left
37 Perry's creator
38 Homeowner's paper
40 Decelerate
42 Stone: pref.
45 Blemish
47 Flows
50 Gardener's tool
52 Under the weather
53 Teapot part
54 Body bulk
55 Tee shot
59 Sketch
60 __ off (deflect)
61 Gawk at
62 Was sorry for
63 Lairs
65 Blue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By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

7/31/03

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

W	I	F	E	■	F	E	D	U	P	■	A	J	A	R
O	R	A	L	■	I	L	O	N	A	■	R	O	M	A
J	A	C	K	H	A	M	M	E	R	■	C	H	O	Y
O	N	T	■	E	N	O	S	■	T	H	A	N	K	S
■	■	■	N	L	C	S	■	C	H	U	R	N	■	■
C	A	J	O	L	E	■	G	A	R	G	O	Y	L	E
A	M	O	C	O	■	C	U	R	E	S	■	C	A	V
V	A	S	T	■	W	H	I	T	E	■	M	A	T	E
E	T	H	■	M	A	I	D	S	■	P	I	K	E	R
R	O	U	L	E	T	T	E	■	C	E	L	E	R	Y
■	■	A	I	R	E	S	■	R	O	D	E	■	■	■
S	E	T	T	E	R	■	L	A	L	A	■	B	E	D
P	A	R	T	■	J	O	E	C	O	L	L	E	G	E
I	S	E	E	■	U	N	D	E	R	■	S	E	A	M
N	E	E	R	■	G	E	A	R	S	■	U	N	D	O

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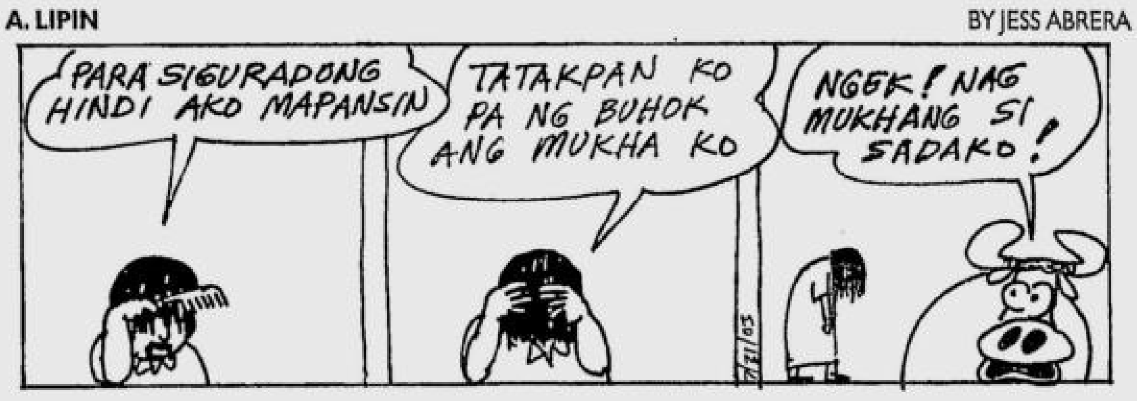
7/31/03

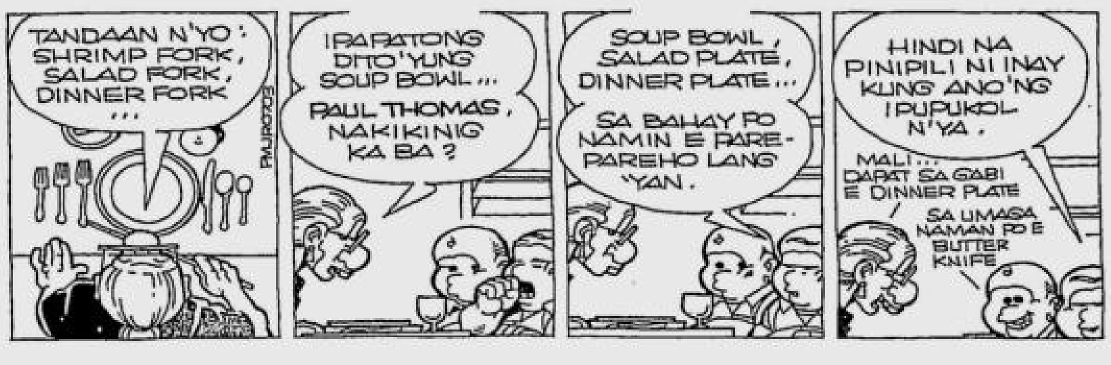
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PARA SIGURADONG HINDI AKO MAPANSIN
TATAKPAN KO PA NG BUHOK ANG MUKHA KO
7/31/03
NGEK! NAG MUKHANG SI SADAKO!

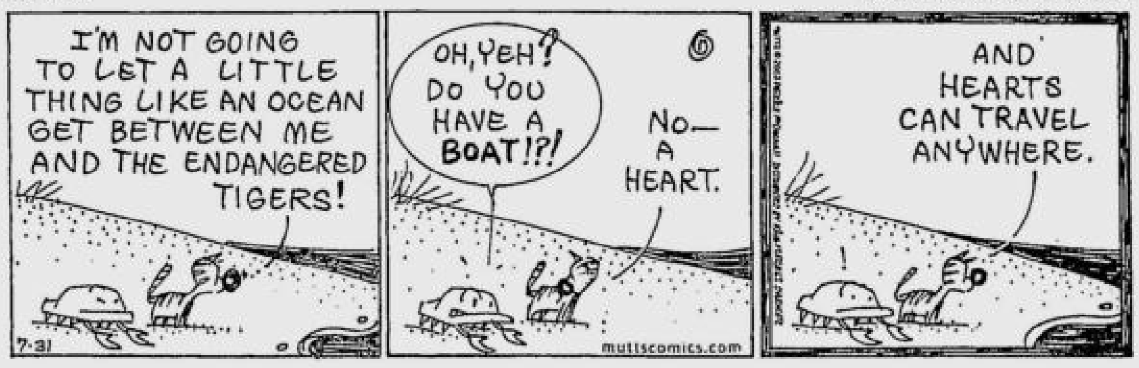
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TANDAAN N'YO: SHRIMP FORK, SALAD FORK, DINNER FORK ...
IPAPATONG DITO 'YUNG SOUP BOWL ...
PAUL THOMAS, NAKIKINIG KA BA?
SOUP BOWL, SALAD PLATE, DINNER PLATE ...
SA BAHAY PO NAMIN E PARE-PAREHO LANG 'YAN.
HINDI NA PINIPILI NI INAY KUNG ANO'NG IPUPUKOL N'YA.
MALI... DAPAT SA GABI E DINNER PLATE
SA UMAGA NAMAN PO E BUTTER KNIFE

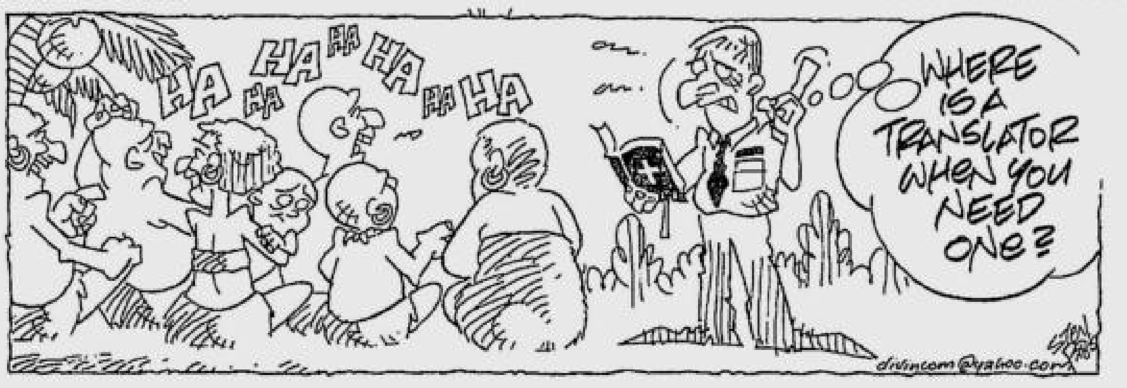
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'M NOT GOING TO LET A LITTLE THING LIKE AN OCEAN GET BETWEEN ME AND THE ENDANGERED TIGERS!
7-31
OH, YEH? DO YOU HAVE A BOAT!?!
NO— A HEART.
muttscomics.com
AND HEARTS CAN TRAVEL ANYWHERE.

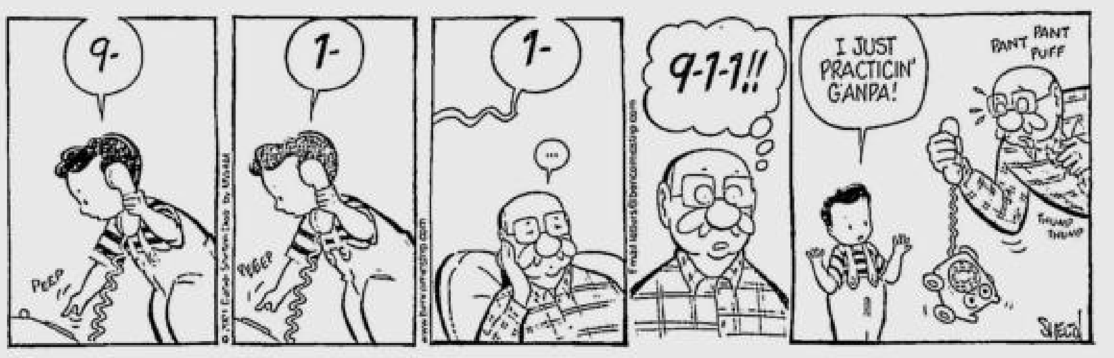
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
WHERE IS A TRANSLATOR WHEN YOU NEED ONE?
divincom@yahoo.com

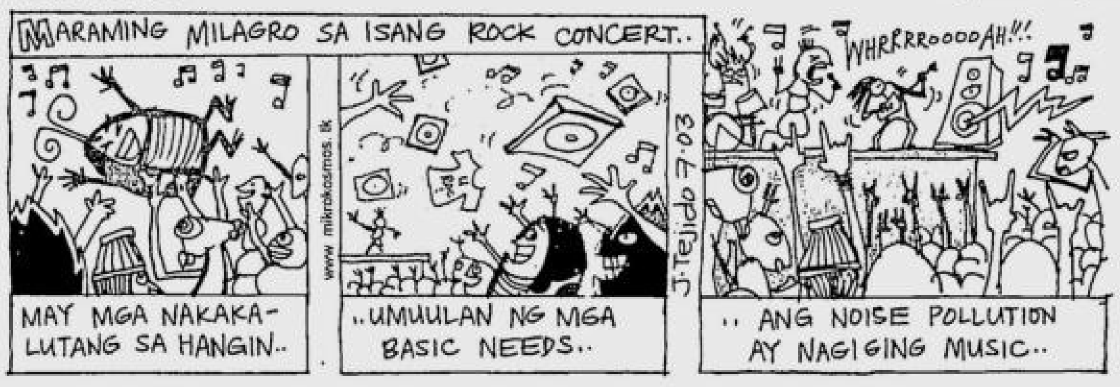
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


9-
PEEP
1-
PEEP
1-
...
9-1-1!!
I JUST PRACTICIN' GANPA!
PANT PANT PUFF
THUMP THUMP

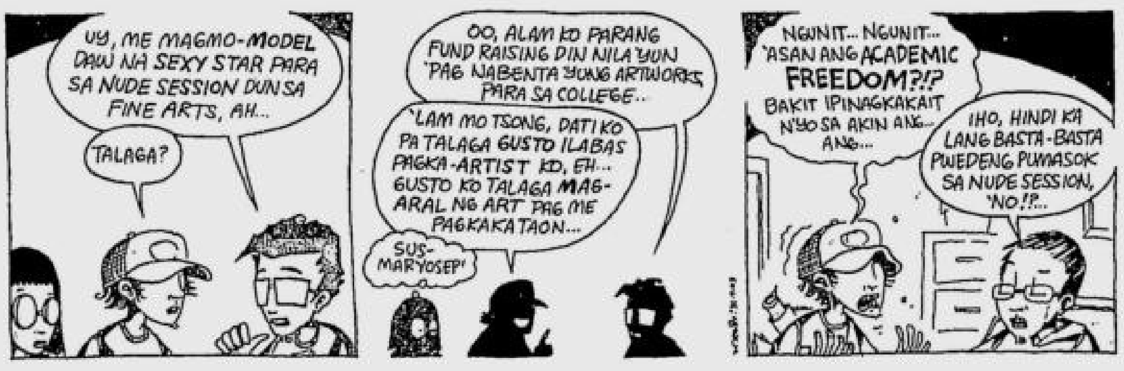
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MARAMING MILAGRO SA ISANG ROCK CONCERT..
WHRRRRooooAH!!!
MAY MGA NAKAKALUTANG SA HANGIN..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
..UMUULAN NG MGA BASIC NEEDS..
J.Tejido 7-03
.. ANG NOISE POLLUTION AY NAGIGING MUSIC..

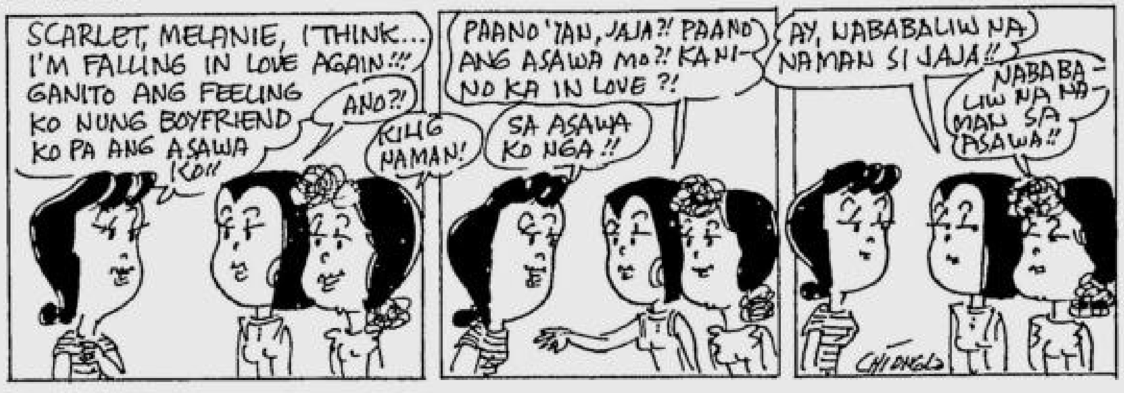
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY, ME MAGMO-MODEL DAW NA SEXY STAR PARA SA NUDE SESSION DUN SA FINE ARTS, AH...
TALAGA?
OO, ALAM KO PARANG FUND RAISING DIN NILA 'YUN 'PAG NABENTA 'YUNG ARTWORKS PARA SA COLLEGE..
'LAM MO TSONG, DATI KO PA TALAGA GUSTO ILABAS PAGKA-ARTIST KO, EH... GUSTO KO TALAGA MAG-ARAL NG ART PAG ME PAGKAKATAON...
SUS-MARYOSEP!
NGUNIT... NGUNIT... 'ASAN ANG ACADEMIC FREEDOM?!?
BAKIT IPINAGKAKAIT N'YO SA AKIN ANG... ANG...
IHO, HINDI KA LANG BASTA-BASTA PWEDENG PUMASOK SA NUDE SESSION, 'NO!?..

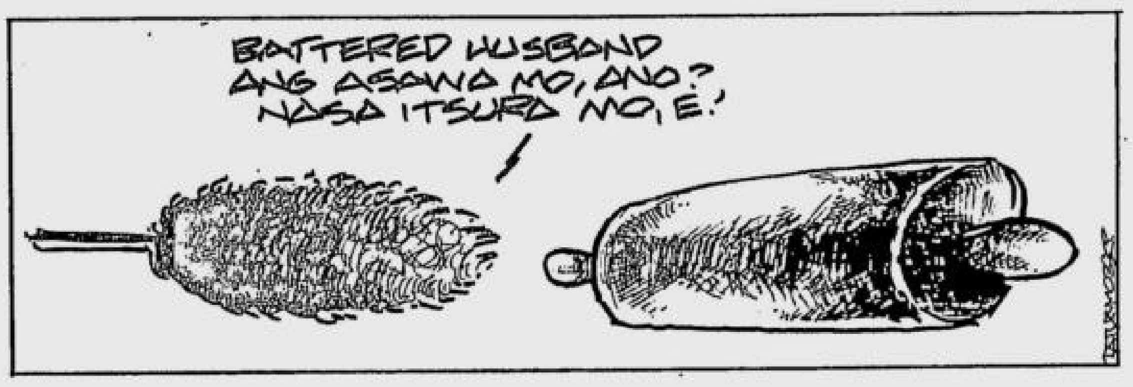
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, MELANIE, I THINK... I'M FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN!!! GANITO ANG FEELING KO NUNG BOYFRIEND KO PA ANG ASAWA KO!!
ANO?!
KILIG NAMAN!
PAANO 'YAN, JAJA?! PAANO ANG ASAWA MO?! KANINO KA IN LOVE?!
SA ASAWA KO NGA!!
AY, NABABALIW NA NAMAN SI JAJA!!
NABABALIW NA NAMAN SA ASAWA!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BATTERED HUSBAND ANG ASAWA MO, ANO? NASA ITSURA MO, E.

Tours, Leisure & Chow

cmadamba@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 209 and 238

Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

PLANTATION BAY'S ALTERNATIVE

Themed breakfast buffets, anyone?

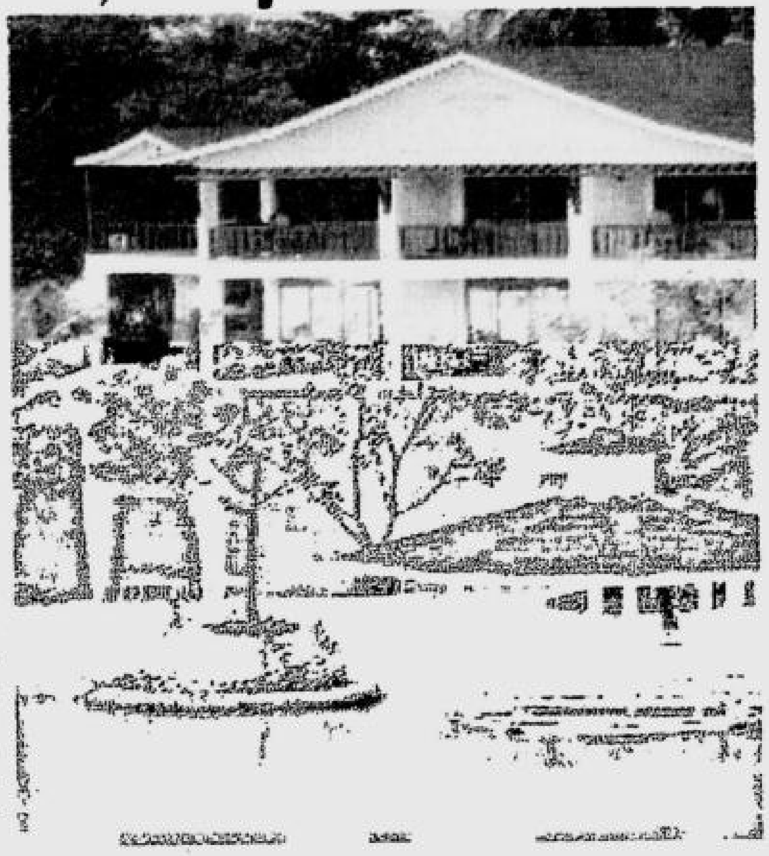
> Plantation Bay guests can now enjoy generous samplings of delectable breakfast staples from around the world in just one place

PLANTATION Bay Resort and Spa, a world-class resort property in Cebu, introduces another first in coffeeshop dining—themed breakfast buffets! It's the best alternative to the typically monotonous "same daily breakfast fare" experience found in most hotels and resorts here and abroad.

Aside from high-standard facilities and excellent service expected by most well-traveled people in their hotel selection, the quality and variety in outlet menus are considered just as important in the choosing process. What better way to address this age-old dilemma but to start with the most important meal to begin one's day—breakfast!

Plantation Bay guests can now enjoy generous samplings of delectable breakfast staples from around the world in just one place. The Kilimanjaro Kafe, Plantation Bay's award-winning coffeeshop, features the best in International Breakfast Buffets—with different country themes every single day! There's the English set of traditional steak and kidney pies, Pacific Northwest set of thick bacon and whole wheat pancakes, Mexican set of *chimichangas* and chili con carne, Chinese dimsum and dumplings, and of course, Filipino featuring all-time favorites of *daing na bangus* and native *kakanins*. These delectable offerings are perfectly complemented with the marvelous yet soothing seascape views of the majestic Mogambo Falls and famous saltwater lagoons.

Go around the world without leaving Cebu. For exact theme breakfast schedule, call Plantation Bay Food and Beverage Department at (032) 3405900 local 1042. For more information, visit www.plantationbay.com



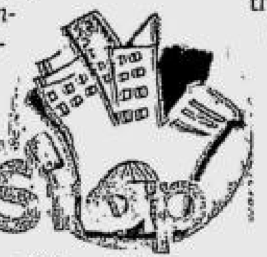
Take it from the chef!

THIS August, let Dusit Hotel Nikko's chefs tickle your taste buds with dishes highly recommended by them.

Three of the hotel's specialty restaurants' chefs have listed their suggested dishes that are simply worth craving for.

Chef Roudan Revilla of The Café's choice are Grilled Tuna Steak, Bulalo and Szechuan Prawns. Phuket Fantasy, ChuChi Guna and Fried Egg Noodles are highly recommended by Thai Chef Phatcharaporn Noinak of Benjarong. And for Thien Duong, Chef Tanpikorn Bunphithak's choices are Pho Ca Tai (rice noodles with sole fish), Ca Ngu Kho Thom (stewed lapu-lapu) with coconut milk and Tom Su Rang Me (deep-fried stuffed prawns with crabmeat).

To find out why these dishes are highly recommended, sample the "Chef's Choices" available ala carte for lunch and dinner. For inquiries, call 867-3333 extension 3301-3304.



Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarin-oriental.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts
4/F Adamson Centre, 121 LP Leviste St.
Salcedo Village, Makati
Tel. (02) 867-1159/ fax (02) 867-1185
www.barcelo-asia.com

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700/fax (074) 446-0704

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18 / Fax. (074) 442-2855

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9965 to 72/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/fax. (046) 413-1225

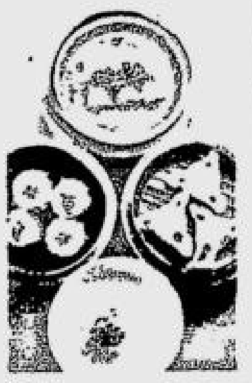
For Feedback and inquiries, call
899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209

Mandarin Oriental's Tin Hau cooks up a dim sum feast

FROM July 28 to Aug. 10, Tin Hau, Mandarin Oriental Manila's premier Chinese restaurant, cooks up a sumptuous "Dim Sum Feast" under the direction of dim sum Chef Lauro Bolado, who has recently awarded the Gold medal at Chefs on Parade 2002. Tin Hau, which has been cited in the past by the Hong Kong Tourist Association for its excellent dim sum dishes, periodically holds a food promotion to firm up its commitment to the art of making authentic Dim Sums.

Aside from Tin Hau's regular offerings, 23 varieties of all original dim sum creations by Chef Lauro will adorn the menu throughout the two-week feast, each one carefully crafted to woo and delight avid fans of this well-loved Chinese delicacy.

Be it spicy or sweet, filled with various pork, vegetable, seafood, or fowl, Tin Hau's "Dim Sum Feast" has the perfect match for varied tastes and preferences. For reservations and enquiries, call 750-8888 ext 2422/ 2424.


CLOCKWISE, from top: steamed shrimp bamboo pith roll with shark's fin and crab roe; steamed lobster meat dumpling with Chinese parsley and dried scallops; steamed ravioli with shark's fin in seafood; steamed pork dumpling with fresh scallops and caviar

Romantic interludes at Pearl Farm Island Resort

WHETHER you are celebrating a special occasion or just in a plain romantic mood, The Barceló Pearl Farm Island Resort will help you experience a night to remember. Stay in a Samal House for only P3,850 net per couple for an overnight accommodation. The "Romance Package" includes roundtrip boat transfers, welcome drink upon arrival and complimentary use of selected recreational facilities. As a special privilege to ignite the couple's zest for romance, guests are greeted with a bottle of sparkling wine and chocolates upon arrival and would be glad to be treated the next morning with a specially prepared breakfast in bed for two persons. This limited offer is valid until Dec. 15.

This Samal Island resort was created for those seeking an ideal haven to indulge the senses to tropical bliss. The Ylang-Ylang Soothing Lounge, a sanctuary located within a garden of vegetation, which offers a wide range of beauty and health treatments. Guests can also enjoy cocktails at the Parola Bar that offers inspiring views of the sea and nearby islands or feast on gastronomic delights offered at the Maranao Restaurant. The resort is one of the properties managed and operated by the International chain of Barceló Hotels and Resorts.

The Barceló Pearl Farm Island Resort invites you to experience bliss through a romantic interlude amidst nature's beauty. For inquiries and reservations for the "Romance Package" special offer, call its Manila Sales Office at 867-2951 and 867-1159. Visit www.barcelo-asia.com.

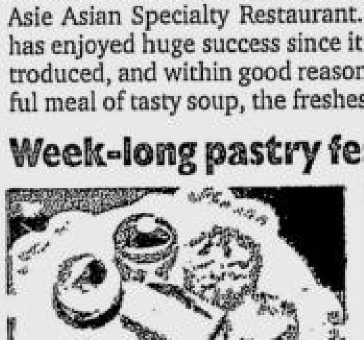
The Bellevue Hotel's Carving Cravings extended

SWEET lunch deals at The Bellevue Hotel are here to stay! Due to insistent public demand, the hotel's popular Carving Cravings promo has been extended until October.

Carving Cravings is an unbelievably good lunch deal offered to distinctive diners of The Bellevue Hotel's main dining area, the Café D' Asie Asian Specialty Restaurant. The promo has enjoyed huge success since it was first introduced, and within good reason—a delightful meal of tasty soup, the freshest salad, pasta with choices of flavorful sauces, luscious carving and lip-smacking dessert are for the taking for only P290.

Guests also get to enjoy the warm ambience and cool interiors of the Café D' Asie. Earth-toned motifs, a lovely universal fountain, comfortable teak chairs, life-giving flowering plants and ancient Chinese artifacts on display combine to give the setting an Asian feel. For inquiries and reservations, call 771-8181.

Week-long pastry festival at Waterfront



FOR THOSE with a sweet tooth, the pastry festival at the lobby lounge is what's keeping the lobby abuzz with activity. A week-long parade of sweet treats and miniature delicate cakes from the kitchen of Chef Benjie Avila, the festival also serves as a yummy sneak preview of the hotel's up and coming new pastry shop. Savor the White Chocolate Alexandra, crisp cashew meringue and a moist orange-flavored sponge cake filled with white chocolate mousse and then surrounded with white chocolate ruffles. That and many more are available during the Pastry Festival, at the Lobby Lounge.

Haute cuisine for the busy businessman

FAST, reasonably priced yet 100-percent haute cuisine best describe the new Business Lunch menus of Inter-Continental Manila's famous Prince Albert Rotisserie. Offerings are priced at P650 per person for a 2-course menu and P800 per person for a 3-course menu exclusive of service and local government taxes. Business lunch suggestions for Aug. 4 to 8 are: Cream of Asparagus or Shrimp Consommé with Ravioli and Asparagus Tips for Soups; Soft-boiled Egg with Green Asparagus and Crispy Smoked Ham or Asparagus Risotto with Parmesan and Veal Jus for Appetizers; Flounder Fillet with Almond Crust served with Eggplant Caviar or Roasted Tuna Belly served with Vegetable Compote scented with Saffron or Roasted Gurami Fillet with Mashed White Kidney Bean, Tomato, Lemon and Basil or Roasted Duck Breast crushed with Dried Fruit served with Vegetable and Bigarade Sauce or Roasted Veal Loin with Mushrooms and Fondant Potatoes Dauphinois Style or Grilled Rib Eye with Fondant Potatoes with Bacon Shallot Sauce for the Main Course; and Grand Marnier Mille Feuille of Pineapple Saffron with Mixed Citrus Sauce and Strawberry Granite for Dessert. A choice of coffee or tea comes with the meal.

Prince Albert Rotisserie is open Monday to Friday for lunch and Monday to Saturday for dinner. It is best to reserve a table in advance. Call 815-9711 local 262 for reservations.

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1

1	BULLETPROOF MONK
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	TOMB RAIDER 2
4	BAD BOYS II

G4 GLORIETTA 4

1	TOMB RAIDER 2
	BULLETPROOF MONK
THX 3	GUARANTEED SEATS BAD BOYS II 12 30 3 30 6 30 9 30
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6	BAD BOYS II
7	DARK WATER

GB1 GREENBELT 1

1	ArtFilm DOUBLE VISION (Exclusive) 12 30, 3 20, 6 10, 9 00
2	TOMB RAIDER 2 11 30, 2 00, 4 30, 7:00, 9 30

Onstage

APO HIKING SOCIETY & HOTDOG - BACK2BACK
Aug. 28 - 9PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3

THX 1	GUARANTEED SEATS TOMB RAIDER 2 1 00, 3 30, 6 00, 8 30 11 00
THX 2	GUARANTEED SEATS BAD BOYS II 1 45 4 40 7 35 10 30
3	GUARANTEED SEATS DOWN WITH LOVE 1 20, 3 30, 5 40, 7 50 10 00
4	GUARANTEED SEATS BAD BOYS II 12 25, 3 10 5 55, 8 40 11 25
5	GUARANTEED SEATS BULLETPROOF MONK 12 05, 2 20 4 35, 6 50 9 05 11 20

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER

THX 1	BAD BOYS II
2	BAD BOYS II
3	BULLETPROOF MONK
4	TOMB RAIDER 2
5	TOMB RAIDER 2

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
2 (SDDS)	BAD BOYS-2
3 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER-2
4 GOLD (DTS ES)	TOMB RAIDER-2
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	BAD BOYS-2
6 GOLD (SDDS)	BAD BOYS-2
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	BULLET PROOF MONK
8	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
9	DARK WATER
10	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA ①②&③

(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274

1	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2	BAD BOYS-2
3	TOMB RAIDERS-2

starmall Movies

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
3	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	TOMB RAIDER-2
5	WILD BUTTERFLY

METROPOLIS star

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
2	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4	BULLET PROOF MONK
5	TOMB RAIDER-2
6	BAD BOYS-2

M star

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	DEATH WATCH

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

BAD BOYS-2

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TERMINATOR - 3
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	TOMB RAIDER-2
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	BAD BOYS-2
4	WILD BUTTERFLY
5	TOMB RAIDER-2
6	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
7 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER-2
8 (SDDS)	BAD BOYS-2
9 (DOLBY)	BULLET PROOF MONK

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2	TERMINATOR-3
3	TOMB RAIDER-2
4 (SDDS)	BAD BOYS-2
5	BULLET PROOF MONK
6 (DOLBY)	BAD BOYS-2
7 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER-2
8	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
9	WILD BUTTERFLY

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1	TOMB RAIDER-2
2 (SDDS)	BULLET PROOF MONK
3 (DTS)	BAD BOYS-2
4 (DOLBY)	BAD BOYS-2
5	TOMB RAIDER-2

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	TOMB RAIDER-2
2	TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS)	BAD BOYS-2
4	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
5 (SDDS)	BAD BOYS-2

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	TOMB RAIDER-2

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
Lords	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	TOMB RAIDER-2
3	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BAD BOYS-2
2	TOMB RADER-2
3	RESERVE
4	BULLET PROOF MONK
5	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2	TOMB RADER-2

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BULLET PROOF MONK
4 (SDDS)	BAD BOYS-2
5 (DTS)	BAD BOYS-2
6	TERMINATOR-3
7	TOMB RADER-2

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0920

1	BULLET PROOF MONK
2	BAD BOYS-2
3 (DTS)	TOMB RADER-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BULLET PROOF MONK
2 (DTS)	TOMB RADER-2
3 (DOLBY)	BAD BOYS-2
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	BULLET PROOF MONK
2 (DOLBY)	BAD BOYS-2
3 (DTS)	TOMB RADER-2
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2	TERMINATOR-3
3 (DOLBY)	TOMB RADER-2
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	DOWN WITH LOVE
2	IMPOSTOR
3 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3
4 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER-2

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	TOMB RAIDER-2
2 (DTS)	TERMINATOR-3
3	MASAMANG UGAT

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BAD BOYS-2
2	SEX & ZEN-2
3 (DTS)	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4	TOMB RAIDER-2

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BAD BOYS-2
2	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER-2
4	WILD BUTTERFLY
5	BANGKOK HAUNTED

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	TOMB RAIDER-2
2	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3	

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	TOMB RAIDER-2
2	BULLET PROOF MONK
3	WILD BUTTERFLY

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER-2
4 (DOLBY)	TERMINATOR-3

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MASAMANG UGAT
2	TERMINATOR-3
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MASAMANG UGAT
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3	TOMB RAIDER-2
4	TERMINATOR-3

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BAD BOYS-2
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3 (DTS ES)	TOMB RAIDER-2
4	BAD BOYS-2

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3 (DOLBY)	BAD BOYS-2
4 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER-2

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang

Tel. 85035-71 to 72

Schedule subject to change without prior notice

MARTIN LAWRENCE WILL SMITH

BAD BOYS II

NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173888

1	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	BAD BOYS 2
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6	BULLETPROOF MONK
7	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM CENTERPOINT

7140522 -7161416

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	BULLETPROOF MONK
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
5	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
7	IMPOSTOR
8	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
9	TERMINATOR 3
10	WILD BUTTERFLY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	BAD BOYS 2
5	IMPOSTOR
6	BULLETPROOF MONK
7	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8	TERMINATOR 3
9	BANGKOK HAUNTED
10	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
11	MASAMANG UGAT
12	BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	BULLETPROOF MONK
3	BANGKOK HAUNTED
4	BAD BOYS 2
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	BAD BOYS 2
7	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
8	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
9	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
10	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11	DOWN WITH LOVE
12	DARK WATER

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	BAD BOYS 2
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	DARK WATER
6	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7	BANGKOK HAUNTED
8	DOWN WITH LOVE
9	BULLETPROOF MONK
10	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
12	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4	DARK WATER
5	BULLETPROOF MONK
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8	BAD BOYS 2

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1	DARK WATER
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3	BAD BOYS 2
4	BULLETPROOF MONK
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8	BAD BOYS 2
9	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
10	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	DOWN WITH LOVE
4	BULLETPROOF MONK
5	DEATH WATCH
6	MASAMANG UGAT
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	IMPOSTOR
2	RESERVED
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	DOWN WITH LOVE
5	BAD BOYS 2
6	JACKASS THE MOVIE
7	RESERVED
8	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	BANGKOK HAUNTED
3	BULLETPROOF MONK
4	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6	BAD BOYS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	BULLETPROOF MONK
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	BAD BOYS 2
4	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	BULLETPROOF MONK

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	JACKASS THE MOVIE
3	DOWN WITH LOVE
4	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5	BULLETPROOF MONK
6	BAD BOYS 2

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
3	BULLETPROOF MONK
4	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	MUNTING TINIG
3	DEATH WATCH
4	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/ 10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:00 END
2	BAD BOYS 2 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/2:15/ 10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:35 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate : P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria

632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

THX /All Digital

1	BAD BOYS 2 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 THX
2	TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 1:45, 4:10
3	LIZZIE MCGUIRE 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45
4	TOMB RAIDER 2 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
5	BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
6	BULLET PROOF MONK 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
7	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
8	TERMINATOR 3 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
9	DARK WATER 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
10	TOMB RAIDER 2 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am-4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita

536-7809-1

1 BAD BOYS 2 - 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
2 TOMB RAIDER 2 - 1:30, 3:55, 6:20, 8:45
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30
4 TOMB RAIDER - 10:15, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50
5 DARK WATER - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6 BULLET PROOF MONK - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
7 TOMB RAIDER - 11:40,2:05,4:30,6:55,9:20

Metro East

Marcos hway
682-8193/828

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	TOMB RAIDER 2
3	TOMB RAIDER 2
4	BULLET PROOF MONK
5	BAD BOYS 2
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	TOMB RAIDER 2
8	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

Novaliches

682-8193/828

1	TOMB RAIDER 2
2	BULLET PROOF MONK
3	BAD BOYS 2
4	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	BAD BOYS 2
7	TOMB RAIDER 2
8	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

Malabon

Citisquare
288-095/2575

1	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
2	BAD BOYS 2
3	BULLET PROOF MONK
4	TOMB RAIDER 2

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(045)961-527

1	TOMB RAIDER 2
2	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
3	DOWN WITH LOVE
4	BULLET PROOF MONK
5	BAD BOYS 2
6	TOMB RAIDER 2

Imus

471-818
875-383

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	TOMB RAIDER 2
3	BULLET PROOF MONK
4	TOMB RAIDER 2
5	BANGKOK HAUNTED
6	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

Sta. Rosa

Laguna
(049)837-0907

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	BULLET PROOF MONK
3	TOMB RAIDER 2
4	TOMB RAIDER 2
5	BANGKOK HAUNTED

Bacolod

441-0453/045

1	28 DAYS LATER
2	BULLET PROOF MONK
3	BAD BOYS 2
4	TOMB RAIDER 2
5	JACKASS THE MOVIE
6	WILD BUTTERFLY

Iloilo

336-8077-7

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	JACKASS THE MOVIE
4	TOMB RAIDER 2
5	IMPOSTOR
6	TOMB RAIDER 2

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Courage and enterprise

From page A29

major news'event breaks.

'Song of Mulan'

"SONG of Mulan," a musical about a young woman who disguises herself as a man so she can take the place of her ailing father and join the army in his stead, will hit the malls in August. The GR Creative Xchange production for the Ayala Malls stars **Nancy Castiglione**, **Greg Turvey** and **Sam Concepcion**, and is directed by **Freddie Santos**.

Performance schedule: Aug 1-3 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Alabang Town Center. Aug. 8-10, the Glorietta. Aug. 15-17, Ayala Center Cebu. Aug. 30, Metropoint Edsa-Taft. Aug. 31, the Pavilion Mall in Laguna. Call GR at 722-8847

'Double Vision'

A THRILLER from Taiwan, "Double Vision" is currently being screened (until Aug. 6) at Greenbelt 1 Artfilm. The film is about three gruesome deaths that baffle Taipei law enforcers. Faced with a probable serial killer, they enlist the help of an FBI profiler and team him up with a local cop to solve the crimes.

"Double Vision" stars **Tony Leung Ka Fai** and **David Morse**, and is directed by **Chen Kuo-Fu**. Budgeted at $5 million, it is Taiwan's biggest feature film to date.

'Tabing Ilog'

AFTER launching some of its original cast members (**John Lloyd Cruz, Kaye Abad, Jodie Sta. Maria**, etc.) to stardom, Channel 2's Sunday afternoon teen drama, "Tabing Ilog," is fielding new mainstays. They include **Angeline Aguilar, Brian Tan, Paolo Paraiso, Juddha Paolo** and **Maoui David.**

After their wedding, Rovic (Cruz) and Eds (Abad) settle down— but trouble threatens their relationship when Eds becomes friends with Jerry (**Mylene Dizon**), Rovic's manipulative ex. Badong (**Paolo Contis**) is torn between Tasha (**Camille Prats**) and her best friend Pat (Aguilar). And Fonzy has fallen for Maoui (David), the new girl in town.

DID YOU KNOW...

Sweethearts **Raymart Santiago** and **Claudine Barretto** abruptly gave up cigarettes after making a no-smoking pact on their joint birthdays last July 20. Both used to consume more than a pack of cigarettes a day.

2ND 'ULTIMATE ACTION' DAY!
From the Director of PEARL HARBOR and ARMAGEDDON, a new multi-million $ movie packed with outrageous Action & Stunts
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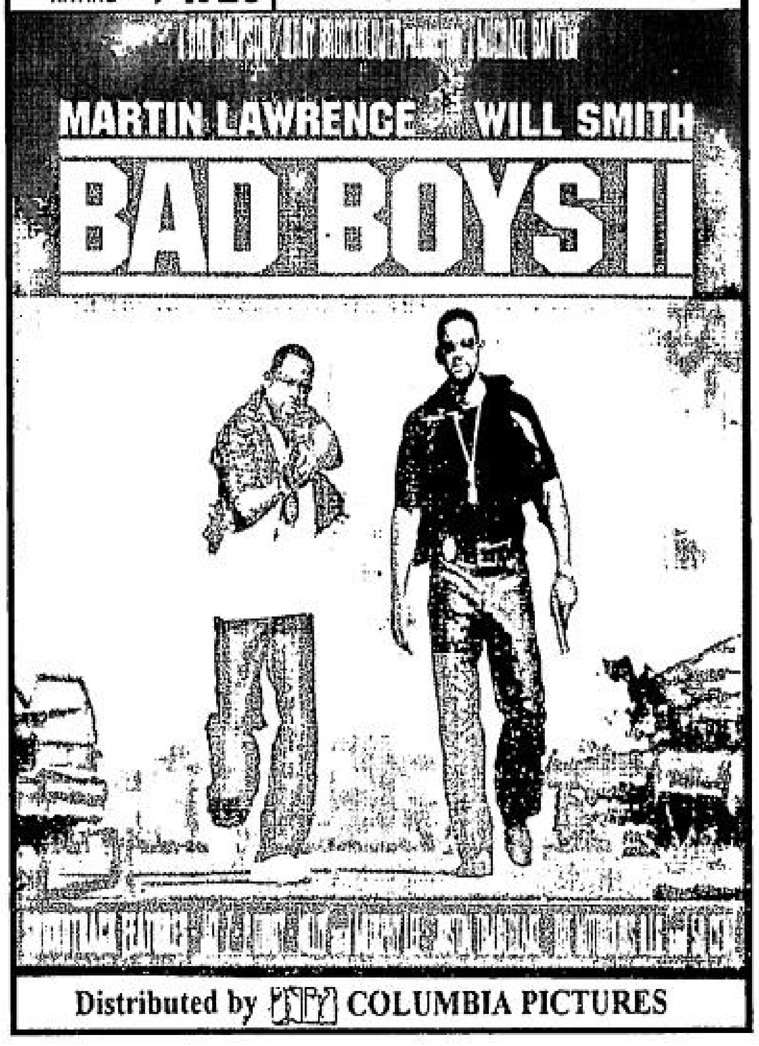
MARTIN LAWRENCE
WILL SMITH
BAD BOYS II

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
NOW SHOWING
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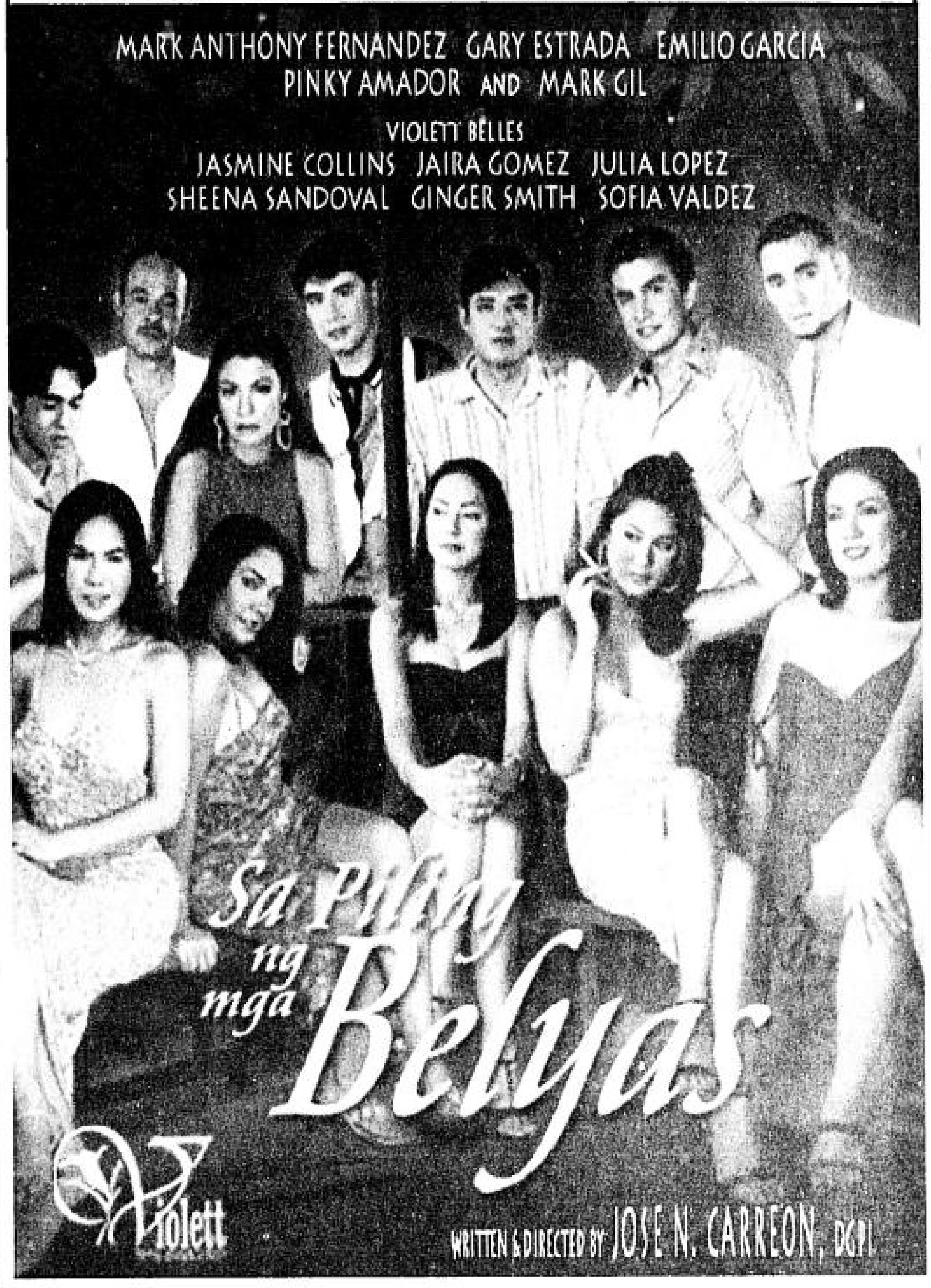
MARK ANTHONY FERNANDEZ GARY ESTRADA EMILIO GARCIA
PINKY AMADOR AND MARK GIL
VIOLETT BELLES
JASMINE COLLINS JAIRA GOMEZ JULIA LOPEZ
SHEENA SANDOVAL GINGER SMITH SOFIA VALDEZ
Sa Piling ng mga Belyas
Violett
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOSE N. CARREON, DGPI

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
Ali 2	MASAMANG UGAT
Ali 3	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 4	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 5	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 6	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 7	TOMB RAIDER 2

ARANETA COLISEUM

JULY 31	UAAP GAMES
AUG 01	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
AUG 03	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 7	UAAP GAMES
AUG 9	UAAP GAMES
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BAD BOYS 2
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAD BOYS 2
B	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAGI-BIG
CINEMA-2	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
CINEMA-7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-12	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-14	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-15	TOMB RAIDER 2
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA 2	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA 3	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

NOW SHOWING
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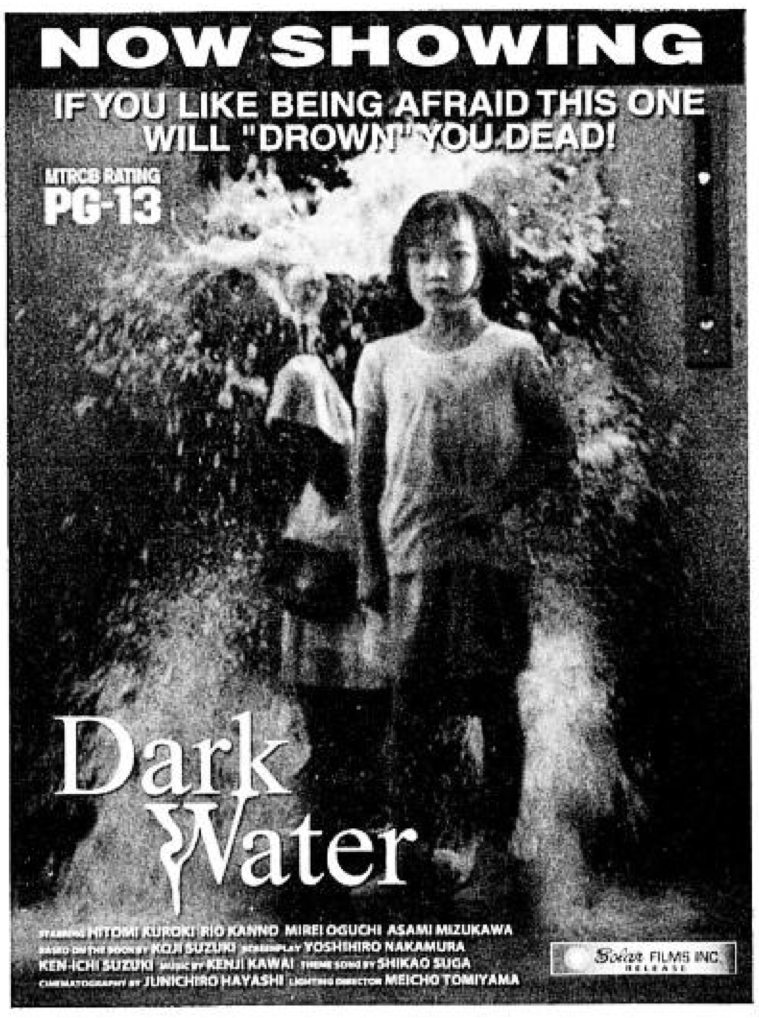
MTRCB RATING PG-13


Dark Water
STARRING HITOMI KUROKI RIO KANNO MIREI OGUCHI ASAMI MIZUKAWA
BASED ON THE BOOK BY KOJI SUZUKI SCREENPLAY YOSHIHIRO NAKAMURA
KEN-ICHI SUZUKI MUSIC BY KENJI KAWAI THEME SONG BY SHIKAO SUGA
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY JUNICHIRO HAYASHI LIGHTING DIRECTOR MEICHO TOMIYAMA
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CINEMA 1	**BAD BOYS 2** 10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 **P13**
CINEMA 2	**Lara Croft TOMB RAIDER 2** 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50 **P13**

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

TOMB RAIDER 2 **PG13** 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	**BULLETPROOF MONK** **R13** 1:10, 3:25, 5:40 7:55, 10:10	**BAD BOYS 2** **R13** 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
BAD BOYS 2 **R13** 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	**DOWN WITH LOVE** **PG13** 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	**TOMB RAIDER 2** **PG13** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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A TALE OF A YOUNG GIRL'S TRIUMPH OVER GREAT ODDS

Nancy Castiglione as Mulan • Greg Turvey as Captain Shang • Directed by Freddie Santos

ALABANG	MAKATI	CEBU
Aug. 1 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 8 - 1pm, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 15 - 11am, 4pm, 7pm
Aug. 2 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 9 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 16 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Aug. 3 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 10 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm	Aug. 17 - 11:30am, 3pm, 6pm

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DOUBLE VISION

TONY LEUNG KA-FAI
DAVID MORSE
RENE LIU

DOUBLE VISION

Two men from opposite sides of the world must work together to explain the unexplainable.

- A wealthy businessman accused of spilling toxic waste into the ocean is discovered dead in his office. Although the room is completely dry, he is believed to have drowned.
- A beautiful mistress of a government official has been burned to death in her home, although there are no signs of fire anywhere.
- A priest known for transporting illegal weapons is found in his bed, disemboweled, although there are no signs of struggle.

To solve these grisly crimes, the Taiwanese government is forced to enlist the help of an American FBI agent (David Morse, "The Green Mile", "Dancer In The Dark"). He is teamed with a troubled local cop (Tony Leung, "The Lover") and together they must do the impossible. Their journey will lead them into Taiwan's darkest corners and to an ancient cult in search of immortality.

MTRCB Rating:
Restricted 18 (R-18)

NOKIA
COLUMBIA PICTURES
INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Louie C. Camino**

DID YOU KNOW...

Jericho Rosales and rumored girlfriend **Cindy Kurleto** were seen together at the Shangri-la Mall in Mandaluyong City one Tuesday night.

Courage and enterprise

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DURING the coverage of last weekend's Makati-based rebellion, we were full of admiration for the courage and enterprise of radio field reporters who brought the breaking story to listeners despite the dangers involved. They waited for hours for fresh developments to break, then sprang into action when news sources hove into view.

When the usual interviewees refused to confirm those developments, or didn't share details to flesh them out, the resourceful field reporters talked to alternative sources—soldiers' relatives, friends who candidly volunteered those details.

Things turned particularly sticky when a deadline was set for the conclusion of negotiations between the government and the rebel soldiers. But the talks dragged on, so media people didn't know if they would be caught in the crossfire should hostilities erupt.

Again, we admired the radio field reporters for staying on the job despite the uncertainty of the situation, and the imminent threat of an attack by government troops.

On the other hand, some studio-based radio program hosts or commentators did less than sterling work during last weekend's crisis. They weren't wanting for opinions, which they dished out in urgent and voluble profusion, but those comments were often long on hyperbole and short on factual basis.

Opinions and comments are fine, but in a crisis situation with potentially dire repercussions for the whole nation, worried listeners need much more than just colorful speculation.

It's easy to opine, and much harder to gather enough facts to make your opinion worth your listeners' time of day. Commentators sound "exciting" when they're talking about local political intramurals, or making a neighborhood fire sound like World War III—but when faced with an event of grave national moment, their off-the-cuff approach turns out to be woefully inadequate.

We hope that radio news commentators take time to evaluate their work last weekend. If they find it wanting, they should resolve to do their homework from here on, so that the next time crisis strikes, they can be truly of service to their listeners.

The most far-out "coverage" we heard involved a commentator who, instead of focusing on the event itself, consulted a fortune teller for his "vibrations" on how the crisis would resolve itself.

When the fortune teller predicted that the outcome would be positive, the commentator then announced this prediction as though it were fact!

Well, other radio people did better than that, so we thank them for their good work.

As for those whose coverage was found wanting, let's hope they think less of themselves and more of their listeners, the next time a

COURAGE/ A28

Actress driving her driver nuts

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

AS THEY say, you'll never get to know a person until you live with him or her. If you want to know the deep, dark secrets of anybody, ask their maids or drivers, who may be earning minimum wage but have maximum access to their bosses' private world.

Recently, I bumped into the longtime driver of a top dramatic actress. He is mustering enough guts to expose the maltreatment he claims to have been getting from the actress all these years and her alleged drug addiction. He lamented, "*Ni wala akong* protection at benefit, SSS etc, *eh ang tagal tagal ko na sa kanya. Parati akong puyat sa mga lakad niya, 'tapos 'di niya ako pinapakain sa oras.*"

The actress' wholesome image on screen seems entirely the opposite of what she's like in real life. I prefer stars, or people for that matter, who let it all hang out and have no pretensions whatsoever. What you see is what you get.

If and when the driver spills the beans on the actress, it will definitely have repercussions on her career. It remains to be seen if her legions of fans will still give her their blind adulation. She may be driven in her career but she's driving her driver nuts!

3 new channels

HERE's good news from Destiny Cable. Three new channels have been added for your rainy day viewing pleasure: Adventure One, Sine Pinoy and Greetings Live!

This definitely opens a world of enhanced entertainment and information at a very incredible pace, providing more choices, setting new standards in content, production and variety.

Rannie's tricks

RANNIE Raymundo will soon display his wizardry in magic along with three top magicians in a reality TV show called "Salamangkalye," directed by **Niño Muhlach**. I have seen Rannie do some magic tricks and it blew me away. His first album, which contains the classic hit "Why Can't It Be?" and other cool original songs, deserves a follow-up. How about spinning some magic via new songs, Rannie?

Jessa's exercise

DINGDONG Avanzado told me that his wife **Jessa Zaragosa** is raring to do movies again, but she still has to shed off some more pounds following her caesarian operation.

"She's enjoying motherhood immensely, but of course she also misses doing concerts and movies," says Dingdong. "She can't exercise yet because of her CS wound. Her only exercise now is carrying our baby."

Toni goes home

ANTOINETTE Taus and I cut the ribbon at the fifth branch of my fave coffee shop, Coffee Overdose, at the JMS Bldg. on Mcarthur Highway in Angeles City. The coffee shop has other branches on Session Road in Baguio, SM Pampanga, Quezon Avenue and San Fernando, Pampanga. It's a quaint and cozy place that serves yummy yet budget-friendly pastries and pasta and, of course, the most addicting coffee and frappes I ever tried.

Antoinette hails from Pampanga and her family owns a resto there. When her sched permits, she goes there for some R & R. She seemed so unaffected after not bagging the VJ stint in the recently concluded MTV VJ hunt. The experience alone gave her more spunk and guts. It shows. She didn't really lose. She almost won.

After the ribbon-cutting, Antoinette rushed back to Manila to catch her classes at Ateneo. She's one of the few young stars who value a good education because show biz is not always good to the stars. Show biz is not for good. Period.

For feedback e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

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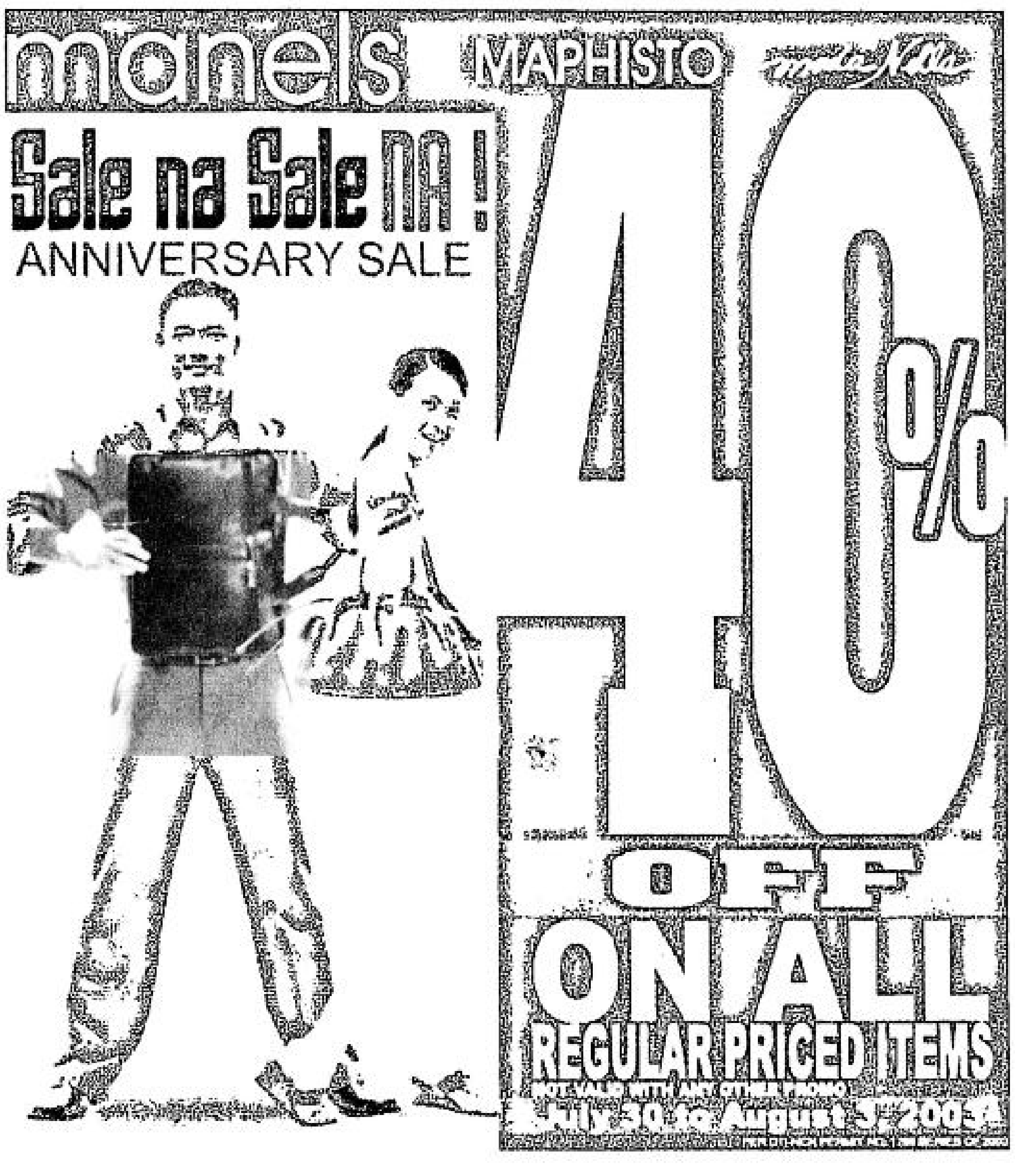

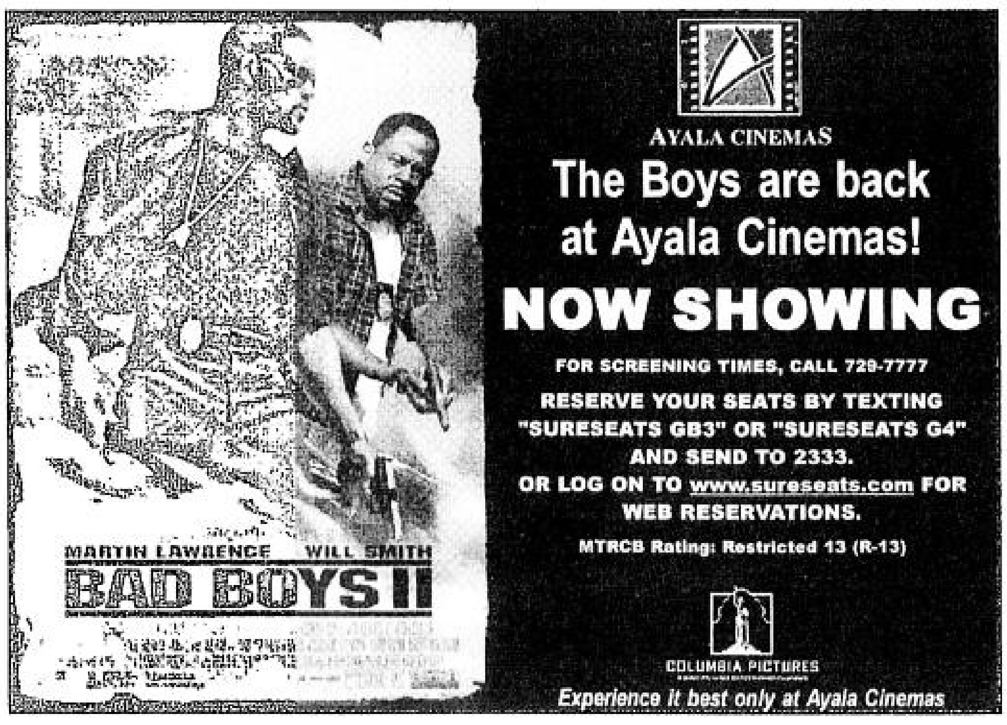

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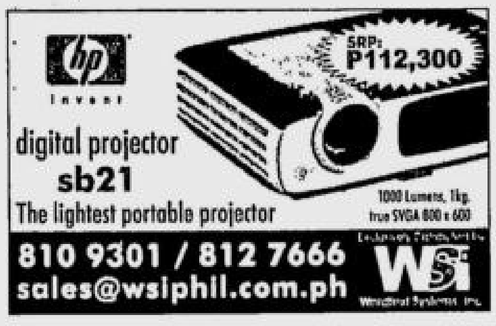

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THURSDAY,
JULY 31, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

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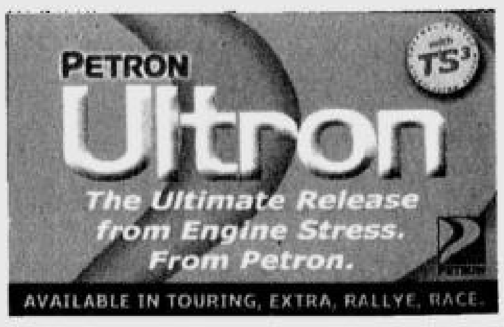

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SMC in talks to buy breweries in China

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. yesterday said it was in talks to acquire the breweries in mainland China of the Lion conglomerate, the second biggest corporate borrower in Malaysia.

"We had been in discussions with Malaysia's Lion Corp. but no agreements had been reached," SMC said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Lion group, which went on an expansion binge since the mid-1980s with the purchase of businesses in China, Hong Kong and Singapore ranging from chocolate to beer and shopping malls, has embarked on a corporate restructuring in the aftermath of the 1997 Asian currency turmoil.

The Lion group, which has 11 breweries in China, also has interests in steel, property development, retailing and automotive.

SMC, which recently took in Japan's Kirin Brewery as a strategic partner, is spending P28 billion for regional expansion starting this year. It plans to expand in Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Taiwan, Australia and South China.

Analysts said it remained to be seen whether the acquisition of more breweries in China would benefit SMC, which already has four breweries in the region.

"SMC has the cash and it has much room to leverage but China is a tricky market," an analyst from a foreign brokerage said, noting that the company always found it difficult to generate profits from the region.

"They recently managed to do better in overseas operations on the basis of lower cost, partly because they moved their head office to the Philippines," the analyst said.

The analyst said the benefits to SMC would depend on how much it was willing to pay for these breweries and what kind of returns would be realized.

"China is many times the size of the Philippines. It depends on where the breweries (to be acquired) are located in China. The ideal situation is to bulk up in the area where the brand of that particular beer is relatively strong and where it can realize some economies of scale," the analyst said.

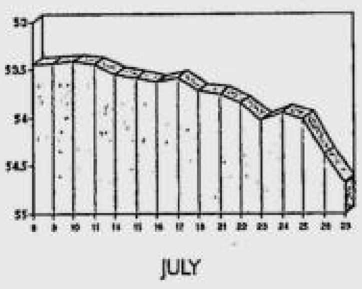
For its part, SMC, which now dominates the domestic beer market, would like to increase the revenue contribution of its offshore operations.

SMC earns only about 15 percent of the P156 billion in net revenues from its overseas operations—four breweries in mainland China and one each in Australia, Vietnam and Indonesia.

SMC/B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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As of 5 p.m., July 30, 2003

GOLD: $358.50-359.00

per ounce Hong Kong, July 30, 2003

July 30, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
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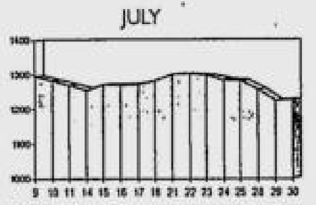
Japan	Yen	0.007289	0.008344	0.455800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.419025	1.624500	88.739900
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112005	0.128223	7.004300
Switzerland	Franc	0.646330	0.739919	40.418800
Canada	Dollar	0.630469	0.721761	39.426900
Singapore	Dollar	0.497985	0.570093	31.141900
Australia	Dollar	0.581336	0.665513	36.354300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.317139	2.652661	144.904300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.232932	0.266660	14.566600
Brunei	Dollar	0.496570	0.568473	31.053400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000116	0.006300
Thailand	Baht	0.020798	0.023810	1.300600
UAE	Dirham	0.237827	0.272264	14.872700
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.144800	62.535800
Argentina	Peso	0.307035	0.351494	19.200700
Brazil	Real	0.299251	0.342583	18.713900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134438	0.153905	8.407200
India	Rupee	0.018977	0.021725	1.186700
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.229903	0.263193	14.377200
Mexico	New Peso	0.083034	0.095057	5.192600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.516934	0.591786	32.326900
Norway	Kroner	0.121100	0.138635	7.573100
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015165	0.017361	0.948400
South Africa	Rand	0.119496	0.136799	7.472800
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.000849	0.046400
Sweden	Kroner	0.108776	0.124527	6.802400
Syria	Pound	0.020798	0.023810	1.300600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025489	0.029180	1.594000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000548	0.000627	0.034300

STOCK MARKET

Shares end decline

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JULY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 0.24 percent higher yesterday as investors picked up a few bargains but the underlying tone remained cautious after the military mutiny at the weekend, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index put on 2.96 points to end the day at 1,228.19 after trading between 1,208.58 and 1,228.19.

Turnover fell to 472.89 million shares valued at P467.45 million from 724.67 million shares worth P713.2 million on Tuesday.

In the broader market, losers led gainers 35 to 29, with 42 stocks unchanged.

Analysts said selling pressure has eased following recent sharp price declines, with the market finding strong support near the 1,200-point level of the composite index. *AFP*

American firms in RP downplay impact of mutiny

By Michelle V. Remo

WHILE some businessmen were concerned the rebellion over the weekend has adversely affected the country's investment climate, American companies here were more positive and has downplayed the incident's capability to harm business.

For the American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Amcham), the short-lived mutiny would not have significant repercussions, and said the country's potentials would outweigh whatever negative effects the incident had on the economy.

According to Amcham chair George Drysdale, the positive fundamentals in the country were still what counted for American businessmen. He said the 4.5-percent gross domestic product growth in the first quarter of the year, the low inflationary environment, and the Filipinos' skills both in information and communication technology and in the English language were factors that could make doing business here still advisable.

"Only those who are yet to invest here might treat the incident as a major consideration, but those who have long been doing business here know that that was an isolated case," Drysdale said in an interview after Tuesday night's security briefing for business associations by military and police officials.

Drysdale assured the government that there were no American companies here planning to locate somewhere else or defer expansion plans due to the mutiny during the weekend.

MEGAWORLD chair and president Andrew Tan (left) and directors George Yang (right) and Cirilo Manlangit preside over the company's annual stockholders' meeting Wednesday at the Eastwood City Cyber Park in Libis. Tan says the slump in the residential property market is over. ***(See story on page B3.)*** JOHNNY VILLENA

Globe profit rises to ₱4.4B in 1st half

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom Inc. posted a net income of P4.4 billion in the first half of the year, surpassing the P3.1 billion it earned in the same period last year despite making provisions amounting to P895 million.

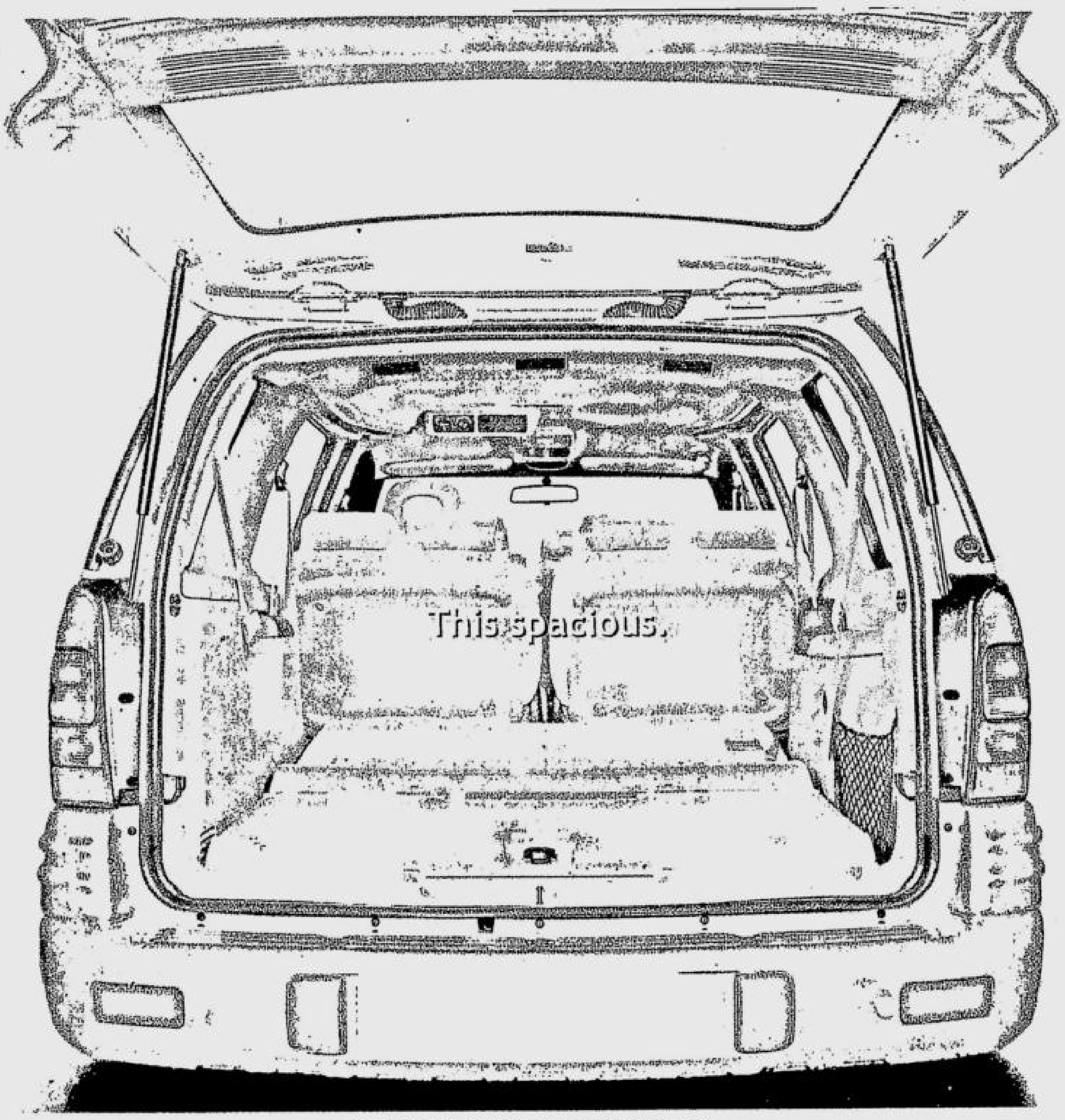
During the second quarter, Globe subsidiary Isla Communications Co. Inc. set up a provision amounting to P179 million to fully provide for the loss in its equity investment in C2C Holdings Pte. Ltd.

Globe had already made an initial P716-million provision for these losses in the first quarter.

Without the P895-million provision during the first semester, Globe's core profits amounted to P5.3 billion.

During the first six months, service revenues, including those from voice and data services, rose 24 percent to P23 billion from P18.5 billion

GLOBE/B4



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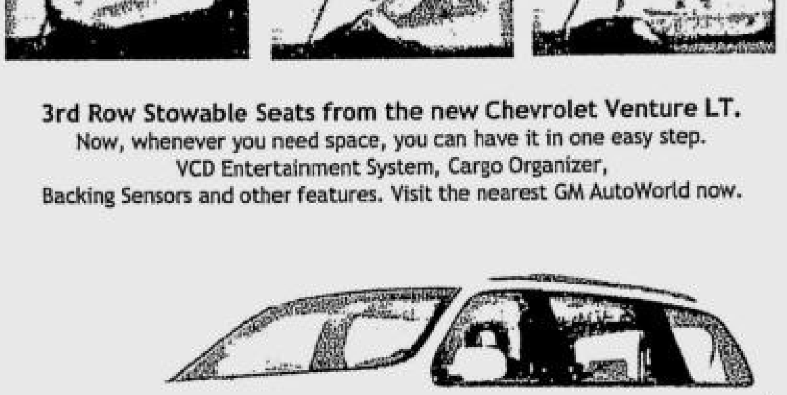

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PAL rebounds, nets ₱295M

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc., the country's flag carrier, posted a turnaround in its fiscal year ending March 2003 with a profit of P295 million as against a net loss of P1.605 billion in the prior fiscal year.

In its audited financial statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday, PAL said the improved profit came from higher revenue and lower expenses.

Operating revenue of the airline, owned and controlled by tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, rose in the end-March 2003 fiscal year by 2 percent to P43.22 billion from P42.44 billion the year before on the back of renewed confidence of passengers in air travel.

PAL noted that its performance showed consistent improvement throughout the fiscal year though at the onset of March this year it faced again another passenger traffic slump following the Iraq war and the sudden outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in certain Asian countries.

The airline also disclosed that operating margins improved as operating expenses also fell by 2 percent to P37.81 billion from P38.46 billion.

PAL attributed the reduction of expenses to a 3-percent drop in fuel costs following a decline in oil prices.

Aircraft maintenance expenses also fell by 5 percent.

Where credit is glue

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ALRIGHT, despite the last-minute changes in her latest Sona, I hoped and prayed that Gloriaetta would not give credit where it was not due, but I can see now I was a fool.

Among the kilometer-long list of accomplishments of this cute administration, at least based on that Sona, was the stable price of basic commodities like lies.

Or it could be ... well, "rice." Probably I heard it wrong. Indeed, Gloriaetta mentioned some other food items such as cooking oil, fish, and chicken feet.

But for the steady prices of those treats, Gloriaetta thanked Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas. Bet you, come 2004, the credit will stick to Mar like glue.

* * *

OF course the prices of those items are stable. This cute administration's Price Monitoring Council itself says so. Heading the council is none other than Mar.

By thanking Mar, Gloriaetta actually gave credit to the vendors at Farmers Market. You know—the traders. They are the constituents of Mar, both as head of the DTI and as part owner of Farmers.

Silly of me, but I thought the farmers and fishermen were the ones who really worked off their whatever-it-is to bring us a steady supply of those items.

That is the supply side. I also thought that this cute administration switched its focus to supply-side economics. And now all the credit goes to "trading."

* * *

IT may be the sign of the times. Trade liberalization and globalization are killing our industries one after the other. And so we are becoming a nation of traders.

Still, I wished that Gloriaetta did not have to rub it in—in her Sona, at that, which may or may not be her last one.

That all depends on whether she wins or loses in 2004. Make no mistake, like any self-respecting politician, she is not keeping her promise. She is going to run.

To me, anyway, the bigger influence behind the steady prices of those food items is the Department of Agriculture, because it is the agency that takes care of the supply.

* * *

FOR in the end, no amount of PR from this cute administration can ever stabilize the prices of basic goods. Mere price monitoring cannot bring them down, either.

In effect, Gloriaetta thanked the census takers—those who went around the markets, gathering the price data. After all, the data may nor may not have been doctored.

Anyway, with a doctorate in economics, Gloriaetta should know that, unless the agriculture department did its work, the prices of food items could never stabilize.

But Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo needs no build up from Gloriaetta like Mar does., Sito is not going into politics. Mar has been, is, and will be into it. Amen.

* * *

LAST week, I got a quick fix of pride in our industries, when I visited a modern tile-making factory in Sto. Tomas in Batangas.

The P3-billion plant is owned by a company called Mariwasa Siam Ceramics, a joint venture between Thailand's Siam Cement and our own Mariwasa group.

By the way, remember that, only a couple of decades ago, back in the 1970s, Thailand sent its young men to study ceramics engineering here at Adamson University.

Today, no wonder, Thailand is the biggest exporter of ceramics products in Asean. It's the story of our sorry life.

* * *

SIAM Cement is partly owned by the royal crown of Thailand. It is into cement, ceramics, paper manufacturing, etc.

In other words, Siam Cement is huge. Its president recently was invited to become the chair of Singapore Telecoms. Hmm. For prestige, what else?

As for Mariwasa, it is owned mainly by Edison Coseteng, who started the company with his brother Emerson, the father of former Sen. Dominique Coseteng.

Born and raised in Tondo, the Coseteng brothers started making tiles more than 40 years ago. These same Tondo boys made "Mariwasa" into a household name.

* * *

IN its 40 years, like all other companies in this country, Mariwasa went through all sorts of crises which were murderous to business.

Let me see, you have martial rule, foreign debt moratorium, coup attempts, the Asian financial crisis, and two revolutions.

Of course you can also mention "blips" such as devaluation, power shortage, radical labor, terrorism, and kidnapping. These are nevertheless just minor crises.

Those crises killed a lot of the old familiar companies here. Mariwasa is still standing, and it is still into manufacturing. Coseteng did not switch to mere "trading."

* * *

OR better yet the 68-year-old Coseteng did not just sell his business. He did not bring his money out of the country—to Canada or China, for instance.

He stayed on and fought, never giving up. In fact, encouraged by the government, Mariwasa modernized its plant, relocating it from Pasig City to Batangas.

The facility in Sto. Tomas, if you trust my judgment, is awesome. The machinery came all the way from Italy. The work force is young, their engineers all brilliant.

Mariwasa Siam Ceramics invested P3 billion in people and facility to become efficient. To compete, it had to become, well, what was it called again—"world class?"

* * *

UNFORTUNATELY, Mariwasa Siam Ceramics is hounded by the usual problems of crippling debt service, by lame low sales.

The low sales, actually, you can partly attribute to a lot of importation. Another word for importation, to a lot of local businesses, is of course "smuggling."

Sure, the DTI recently imposed "safeguard" tariff on imported tiles. But the trading worms actually have a built-in way to go around the DTI imposition.

Tiles coming from certain countries, such as Vietnam, are exempted from the "safeguard." The worms simply pass off their shipment as coming from those countries.

* * *

ITS huge debt service had something to do with the collapse of the real estate sector. It happened right after the company borrowed a fortune to put up the plant.

To relieve itself of the debts, Mariwasa Siam Ceremics intended to sell its factory site in Pasig, which has become so crowded, its property has turned into prime real estate.

The real estate market, as I said, forgot to get out of the Asian financial crisis, partly because this cute administration could not get a housing program going.

This company is stuck with a real estate property, while it is deep in debts, because it invested in a factory, which cannot sell its production, thanks to smuggling.

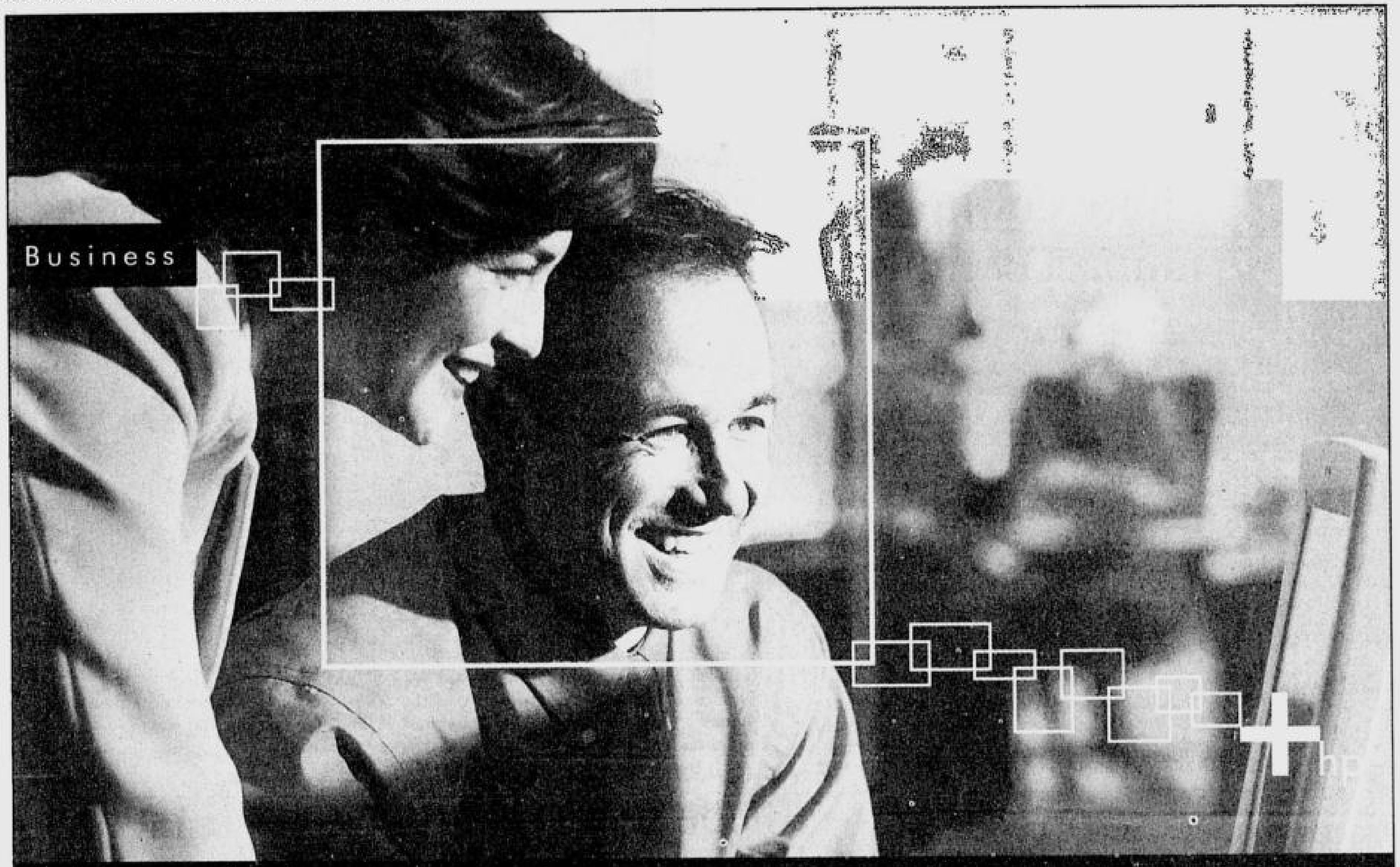
* * *

FRANKLY, my dear, I find the whole thing sickening. Like a lot of businesses, the tile-making Mariwasa group did everything in its control to do well.

Short of capital for the modern factory, its owners were willing to give up full control, and so they invited foreign investors such as Siam Cement and Toto of Japan.

But then those guys must contend with smuggling and even high power cost, which to an energy-intensive venture like ceramics-making can be murderous.

It is the business environment, in other words, which remains hostile to the company. From what I know, business environment is all about policy.



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PROPERTY SLUMP BOTTOMS

Megaworld sees 30% profit jump

By Doris C. Dumlao

UPSCALE property developer Megaworld Corp. expects to post a 30-percent growth in net profits this year from the P431.84 million in net earnings chalked up in 2002 on strong sales of residential units, company chair and CEO Andrew Tan said yesterday.

Tan told reporters after Megaworld's stockholders' meeting that for the first semester of the year, the company's net earnings expanded by 30 percent.

"The residential market has been improving," Tan said, noting that this sector would account for about 75 percent of the company's revenues. Tan said that the residential property market slump has bottomed and was now poised to recover.

Aside from sales of residential units, Tan also said Megaworld would generate more windfall from property rentals this year.

For this year, Megaworld has earmarked P3.5 billion for capital spending, specifically to pursue new developments within the Eastwood Cyber City as well as its projects in the former military camp Fort Bonifacio.

Megaworld is developing a high-rise residential community called Forbeswood Heights in Fort Bonifacio. It has also teamed up with Alliance Global Group Inc. to develop the 25-hectare Lawtown Parkplace recently bid out by the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority.

Tan noted that Fort Bonifacio was so far the fastest growing area in the metropolis in terms of take-up of residential units.

"Fort Bonifacio is really the place to watch out for in the next 10 years," he said.

To date, however, flagship project Eastwood City still accounted for 50 percent or the lion's share of Megaworld's earnings.

Megaworld is also beefing up its network of offices in the Asia-Pacific, Europe and the United States in to tap the overseas Filipino market.

"In terms of sales, that probably generates 11 to 12 percent of total sales. We're just starting and we hope it's going to increase in the next few years," he said.

Asked about financing requirements, Tan said Megaworld would have no need to pursue new borrowings this year.

Last year, he noted that the company had contracted a $20-million loan from the International Finance Corp. to bankroll additional information and communications technology facilities at the Eastwood City Cyberpark.

SMC in talks . . .

From page B1

The aggressive regional expansion, SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco earlier said, would increase the contribution of its overseas operations to as much as 60-70 percent of the total earnings of the group.

This developed as regional concerns over the outbreak of the SARS virus, whose epicenter was China, had fizzled out.

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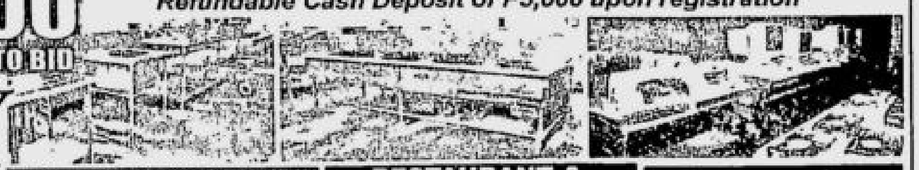

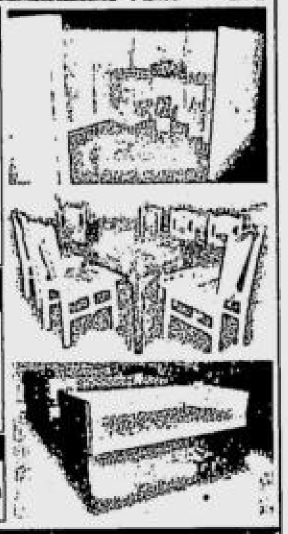

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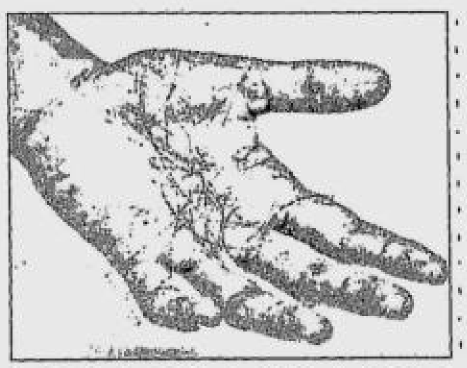

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RP plans to go back to offshore bond markets for '04 funding

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY is preparing to go back to offshore bond markets by the fourth quarter to raise funds for next year's net financing requirement of about P200 billion.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the need to advance some of the foreign borrowing requirements for 2004 came up after a review of the government's borrowing mix for next year. The review was conducted to determine the possible impact on the dollar reserves of a borrowing plan that is 80-percent dependent on domestic sources.

Edeza earlier said the government would like to take advantage of the low domestic interest rates by borrowing 80 percent of its funding requirement from the local market.

The central bank, however, said such a strategy would endanger the country's gross international reserves, which is presently at $15.8 billion, and put pressure on the peso.

Converting pesos to dollars to pay foreign obligations will leave the government no choice but to draw on the reserves.

The national government still needed to borrow $400 million for this year's funding requirement. It also intends to pre-pay next year some $500 million in offshore financing.

Since 2001, the government has been paying in advance at least $500 million in debt yearly to lighten its borrowing load in the succeeding year.

The government has to raise about P200 billion to finance an estimated budget deficit of P197.8 billion in 2004.

"We will review our borrowing mix to bring it to a ratio of 70-30 or even 60-40, still in favor of the domestic market. We are looking at increasing the ratio of foreign borrowings next year from previously planned level so as not to put pressure on the reserves," said Edeza.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura has been urging the national government to borrow as much as $1 billion this year in anticipation of the market's adverse reaction to foreign borrowings next year in view of the 2004 presidential elections.

Uncertainties arising from election jitters could drive up the cost of the government's borrowings next year.

"We would like to balance our borrowing mix to consider the election period and the country's dollar reserves. The markets perceive a higher degree of risks during election seasons unless investors have a good idea of who would be the winner," said Edeza.

The government has reduced to $1.9 billion its offshore requirement this year from $2.4 billion after raising P74.3 billion from the sale of retail treasury bonds.

"The national government does not want to add undue pressure on the reserves and the peso by drawing on the GIR," said the treasurer.

A low GIR level is feared to make the peso vulnerable to speculative attacks.

Japan firms win e-bidding of Transco project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PARTNERSHIP of Japan firms Kanematsu and J Power Systems yesterday won the electronic bidding for National Transmission Corp.'s $68.5-million Leyte-Cebu interconnection system capacity build-up project.

The Kanematsu-J Power's bid of P2.75 billion or about $68 million bested that of the only other bidder, the Nissho Iwai and Fujikura group. The winning bidder's offer included cost of financing and capitalized cost of transformer losses.

Transco president Alan T. Ortiz, however, said the Kanematsu-J Power group still had to undergo post-qualification in the next two days. Barring any constraint, the contract will be awarded by Aug. 23.

Yesterday's auctions involved a reverse auction system using computers instead of the traditional two-envelop system.

"This is the first time that e-bidding was used to secure a contract for an infrastructure project," he said. "This will save us two months of work, which means an earlier start of construction work."

The official said the upgrading of the Leyte-Cebu transmission lines' capacity were expected to be ready for commissioning by December 2004.

"The installation of a second 32.5-km underwater transmission line between Leyte and Cebu would give an additional 200 megawatts of energy from Leyte to the Cebu-Negros-Panay area," he explained.

The added capacity will double the volume of electricity being exported from geothemal energy-endowed Leyte to power-hungry Cebu-Negros-Panay.

In a subsequent forum held in Makati, Ortiz told the Makati Business Club that yesterday's successful bidding had ensured that an energy crisis in the Visayas was really averted.

Government data anticipates a shortage of power supply in the Cebu-Panay-Negros grid starting this year if the region will not be able to tap additional power sources.

Transco records indicate the winning contractor will be required to secure the financing for the project.

The firm said that the contract would be "turnkey plus financing," which means that the contractor will be responsible for the supplies and the construction of the additional Leyte-Cebu transmission lines aside from securing funding.

Chinatrust nets P334M in 6 mos.

CHINATRUST (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp., the local unit of Chinatrust of Taiwan, said its net profit for the first half of the year climbed 8 percent to P334 million on the back of higher interest earnings on loans and strong trading gains.

In a statement, Chinatrust Phils. said the first half profit exceeded expectations. The bank earlier said it aimed to duplicate this year its 2002 profit level.

Chinatrust Phils. president Joey A. Bermudez said the bank's loan portfolio rose by 19 percent, contributing significantly to the bank's healthy first semester interest earnings.

"The portfolio expansion was evident across all business segments of the bank," Bermudez said. "These include our Taiwanese niche, middle market and the consumer businesses."

He added that initiatives undertaken in 2002 paved the way for a steady growth in customer acquisition and that good progress was also made in diversifying the bank's revenue stream.

The bank's NPL ratio remained low at 5 percent, compared with the industry's 15 percent.

The bank's loan loss cover remained higher than prudential requirements, regulatory standards and industry benchmarks, the bank said. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Meralco swings back to profit

By Elena R. Torrijos

MANILA Electric Co (Meralco) said yesterday it swung back to profit in the second quarter, helped by a modest rise in power sales and a rate hike.

The largest electricity distributor in the country said it posted net income of P391 million in April to June, reversing a loss of P325.1 million in the first quarter.

The first semester profit of P66.09 million, however, was 85.8 percent lower than the P465.24 realized in the same period last year.

Documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that Meralco's second quarter profit was likewise 27.3 percent lower than the year-ago level of P538 million.

Operating revenue in the first half rose 7.6 percent to P65.422 billion from year-ago level of P60.775 billion.

The rise in revenue, however, was negated by a 9.1-percent increase in operating expenses to P62.490 billion from P57.257 billion.

As a result, Meralco's operating income in the first half of this year dropped 16.7 percent to P2.93 billion from P3.52 billion last year.

Other expenses—consisting of interest and other financing charges, unrecoverable purchased power system loss and provisions for disallowed recoveries—reached P2.85 billion.

Meralco's capital expenditure in the first half of the year grew P3.108 billion from P2.77 billion, while its system loss declined slightly to P1.20 billion from P1.32 billion.

The electricity distributor's cash balance as of end-June fell to P4.8 billion from P10.405 billion.

Meralco said the total kilowatthour sales volume in the second quarter rose 2.8 percent to 6,116 million kWh.

BPI posts increase in Q2 income

BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI), the country's second-biggest lender, said yesterday that its net income climbed in the second quarter, helped by higher consumer loan demand.

The bank said in a financial statement its net income was P1.28 billion in April to June. It did not give comparative figures but reported a profit of P1.17 billion in the same period of 2002.

BPI, owned by conglomerate Ayala Corp. and Singapore's DBS Group, said it had net interest income of P2.23 billion in the second quarter.

BPI shares jumped 37.31 percent in the first six months of the year, outperforming the main index's 20 percent rise. *Reuters*

TOUGH YEARS, UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

Airline industry continues consolidation

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ANTINORI

THE AIRLINE industry has always been buffeted by economic difficulties ever since the early days of commercial aviation.

But it has never experienced so many major upheavals in so short a time, running even the most redeemed names in the industry such as United and American Airlines aground.

IATA director general and CEO Giovanni Bisignani said in June this year that the combined impact of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the US, the world economic slowdown and the SARS outbreak have been devastating for the industry.

Industry losses in 2001 and 2002 amounted to $25 billion. He likened the last two years to "a boxer who gets hit harder after every knockdown."

Lufthansa German Airlines executive vice president Thierry Antinori, however, told the INQUIRER in an interview that just like other major airline company, Lufthansa was hard hit by those events, especially with its big presence in Asia.

"But we have quickly adapted to these changes. We were able to take a lot of aircraft away from the routes that were really affected and then cope with the demand in other places," Antinori said.

He stressed though that Lufthansa would maintain its exposure in Asia because it remained an important market.

"We were really hit by SARS and we posted losses despite all the measures we took. But we are looking to the future with optimism and with our strong balance sheet, we see this crisis as an opportunity," Antinori said.

Asia is considered a major market, particularly for European airlines, not only because of the huge Chinese and Indian markets, but also because of the potential for increased business travelling between the two continents.

Lufthansa's regional office in Singapore oversees operations in Japan, India, Greater China, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. It also covers the Indian subcontinent.

It has been operating in the Philippines since 1981. Since March 1994, Lufthansa has been operating daily Boeing 747-700 aircraft servicing the Manila-Frankfurt-Manila route. Convenient connections to major European cities and beyond are available in Lufthansa's main hubs in Germany, Frankfurt and Munich.

Antinori expressed confidence that commercial activity between Frankfurt and Manila would increase, thus, its decision to keep its daily flights to and from Manila.

"We want to increase our relationship with this country, make our links more tight. We will continue to invest here," Antinori said.

Antinori said he expected the global airline industry to continue its consolidation phase, even with the worse of the SARS outbreak behind it as travel slowly but surely picks up.

"Perhaps we would see a time when long-haul traffic would be serviced by only about two to three major airlines, and the second-tier airlines would also have to downsize. There is simply overcapacity," he said.

The biggest benefactor in the end, he said, would be the customer.

"There would definitely be increased focus on customer service and this would translate into better rates, more efficient service and more value for their money because of fiercer competition," he said.

Lufthansa German Airlines operates as an autonomous unit of the Lufthansa Group. The airline serves 340 destinations in 89 countries with a fleet of about 240 aircraft and a staff of more than 34,000 employees.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 30, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	19	18.5	19	148,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46.5	47	43.5	43.5	1,032,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	33.5	32	32	208,000
First E-Bank Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	90,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31	30	30.5	158,500
Philippine National Bank	25	25	25	25	56,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.5	279,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.75	22.75	22.25	22.5	402,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	320,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	120,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1560	1575	1560	1575	480
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.46	1.52	1.38	1.4	2,796,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1140	1150	1140	1150	2,490
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.25	46,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.67	0.67	6,050,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	670	650	655	143,770
Ipeople Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	100,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.049	0.049	10,400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	7,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.53	0.54	8,510,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	515	520	492.5	500	263,700
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	75,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12	12.25	11.25	11.25	575,600
Manila Electric Co. B	17.5	18	17.25	17.25	3,080,900
Petron Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.02	2.02	7,910,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	6,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.75	2,026,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,020,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.8	4.2	3.8	4.2	61,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	42,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	63,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.75	504,600
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	250,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52.5	52.5	52	52.5	74,500
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	258,400
Universal Robina Corp.	5.9	6.1	5.9	6.1	117,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	90,000
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.75	4.65	4.65	6,658,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	561,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	100,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.09	0.09	2,910,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	16,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.82	1.88	35,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.76	0.68	0.69	28,380,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.14	0.14	900,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.185	0.185	670,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.075	0.095	0.075	0.085	2,600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.27	0.27	3,640,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	36,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	16.25	16.5	15.5	15.5	2,121,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.145	0.12	0.12	5,250,000
Ionics Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.48	1.48	1,728,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	4,786,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,600,000
Medco Holdings	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.77	0.72	0.72	2,400,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.28	14,730,000
Music Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.35	0.38	5,500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.17	0.21	0.17	0.18	6,740,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.115	0.165	0.115	0.165	4,550,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	60,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.31	0.32	1,470,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.085	0.12	0.085	0.115	29,600,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	250,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.55	0.56	6,810,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.47	0.47	1,070,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	300,000
Premiere Ent. Prod., Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	690,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (PDR)	20.5	20.5	20	20	85,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	30,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	9,536,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	230,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.205	0.195	0.195	5,720,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.235	0.235	5,960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	0.99	0.99	18,730,000
Highlands Prime, Inc.	2.1	2.16	2.1	2.16	20,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.27	0.28	0.23	0.24	6,210,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.21	0.215	8,940,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2	80,000
SM Development Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	500,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.2	6	6	9,498,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc. A	0.135	0.15	0.135	0.15	20,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	5,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	5,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.004	0.004	60,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0034	0.0034	130,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,400,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	6,700,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	50,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	50,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.034	0.03	0.033	31,400,000
South China Resources Inc	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	150,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	140,000

Globe profit rises . . .

From page B1

in the same period last year.

Cash flow indicator earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) rose 22 percent to P13.7 billion from P11.2 billion during the first six months of 2003.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, the company attributed the earnings growth to its robust subscriber take-up. During the first six months of the year, Globe had 942,460 new subscribers net of churn or disconnections.

Globe now has more than 7.3 million subscribers, 35 percent higher than last year's end-June subscriber base of 5.4 million.

"We are happy with the performance of the company, as well as the continuing favorable developments in the industry in the first semester of the year," Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said in a statement.

During the April-to-June period, Globe cornered 91 percent of new postpaid subscribers.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of Megaworld Corp. were Andrew Tan, Katherine Tan, George Yang, Robert Zulkoski, Cirilo Manlangit, Roberto Guevara and Gerardo Garcia.

* * *

PHILIPPINE National Construction Corp. disclosed the election of Rio Espiritu and Basilio Cruz as members of the company's board.

* * *

MACARIO Te and Eric Filamor resigned as directors of Waterfront Philippines Inc. Lamberto Mercado Jr. and Alexandria Gonzales were elected as their replacement. Also, Cleofe Canete resigned as compliance officer and was replaced by Precilla Toriano.

* * *

THE BOARD of Philex Mining Corp. approved the hiring of Walter Brown as president and chief operating officer of the company. He was also elected director following the resignation from the board of Barbara Anne Migallos who is still the company's corporate secretary.

* * *

PICOP Resources Inc. denied having any information that can explain the increase in its share price from P0.0825 to P0.12. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

INTEREST RATES

July 30, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 30-Jul-03	MART1 29-Jul-03
1 Month	6.1982	6.3393
3 Months	6.2946	6.4482
6 Months	7.0286	7.1038
1 Year	7.425	7.6117
2 Years	8.8712	8.9321
3 Years	9.735	9.6233
4 Years	10.176	10.0233
5 Years	10.4267	10.2933
7 Years	11.1821	11.1133
10 Years	11.51	11.5367
20 Years	12.035	12.0424
25 Years	12.335	12.35

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Asian stocks dip

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks dipped on Wednesday as hopes for a recovery in the region's biggest export market took a knock from a fall in US consumer confidence.

But the dollar shrugged off the unexpected decline in the Conference Board's consumer confidence index to hold near a four-week high against the yen on speculation over better data later in the week.

The Nikkei average ended morning trade down 0.6 percent at 9,775.48.

Chip and computer maker Fujitsu Ltd. fell 2.4 percent, extending falls from Tuesday when it widened its half-year loss estimate.

An MSCI index of shares elsewhere in the Asia Pacific dropped 0.6 percent. Losses on major markets ranged from 0.1 percent in Hong Kong to 1.1 percent in Taiwan. Singapore was flat.

The weakness mirrored declines in US indices after news that the confidence index had dropped to 76.6 in July from 83.5 in June, defying economists' expectations for a reading of 85.

But after initially falling on the figures, the dollar rose to a four-week high around 119.95 yen and held near that level in Asian trade. The euro was stuck near late US levels at $1.1450.

"I think the market was trying to bet on good numbers later in the week," said Koji Fukaya, chief forex analyst at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi. *Reuters*

Fed officials see signs of life in struggling US economy

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve officials are pleased to see hints of vigor in US economic statistics, but they are guarded about predicting a recovery that is brisk enough to outdistance the threat of deflation.

Policy-makers, who have already slashed interest rates to a 45-year low of one percent, have seen false starts in the US recovery before. That makes them wary of overconfidence but they do predict better growth in coming months.

"The chances for a fairly significant improvement in the second half I think are quite good," Fed Governor Ben Bernanke told Reuters in a recent interview.

But with inflation at very low levels, Fed officials still see a remote but real risk of deflation, a sustained drop in prices that would damage the economy.

A drop in a measure of consumer sentiment on Tuesday gave pause to some private economists. But other signs have been positive recently.

Last week, the government said the number of people filing new claims for jobless benefits fell below the key 400,000 level, while durable goods orders soared in June.

One source of potential trouble is a big rise in long-term interest rates, which will make many consumer and business loans more costly, Low said.

Second-quarter gross domestic product, due out on Thursday, and the all-important employment report, slated for Friday, could bolster or shatter impressions the economy is reviving.

Bernanke is keen to see an inkling of improvement in the job market. He noted that with the 6.4 percent unemployment rate signaling a lot of slack in the economy, inflation could drift lower even as the economy makes a comeback.

Some economists have said a breakthrough is at hand in business sentiment, which has been battered by the bursting of the high-tech bubble and a slew of corporate scandals. Bernanke senses a shift but not necessarily a dramatic one.

In a recent interview, Fed Vice Chair Roger Ferguson listed a few caveats about the forecasts for a big rebound in business spending.

"The high-tech sector of industrial production has been picking up steadily, despite further weakness in communication," he said. "But there's evidence that suggests the pick-up in computers reflects consumer demand more than business demand." *Reuters*

SEC OKs tighter rules on research

WASHINGTON—The US Securities and Exchange Commission approved a set of rules requiring even greater separation between investment banks and their equity research divisions.

The new rules, proposed by the New York Stock Exchange and the National Association of Securities Dealers, prohibit brokerage firms from meddling with research analysts whose reports may adversely effect their business.

They also place restrictions on analysts themselves, barring them for instance from participating in company pitch meetings meant to drum up investment banking business.

SEC chair William Donaldson called the measures an "important milestone" in an endeavor to clean up Wall Street research following allegations that banks' business interests had tainted their supposedly neutral reports.

"The rules approved by the SEC today require a critical and necessary separation of research analyst compensation from investment banking," Donaldson said.

"Such conflicts have undermined confidence in our market, and must stop. Today's effort will provide participants with clear guidelines for restoring confidence in the integrity of research."

Ten top investment banks including Merrill Lynch & Co., Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. agreed in late April to pay a $1.4-billion settlement over alleged biased stock research. *Reuters*

US court junks Intel lawsuit

SAN FRANCISCO—A US federal court on Tuesday dismissed a securities fraud lawsuit against Intel Corp. filed by shareholders after the chipmaker's stock price fell more than 40 percent in one month in 2000.

The lawsuit, led by the Hawaii Reinforcing Iron Workers Pension Trust Fund, accused Intel executives of making false and misleading statements about quarterly revenue projections and products that artificially inflated the stock price.

The US District Court in San Jose, California, granted Intel's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, saying there was no evidence that Intel executives knew statements about products and demand were false.

In addition, the court ruled that language used by the company cautioning that the projections were forward-looking shielded Intel from liability.

The lawsuit had maintained Intel should be held liable for statements made by investment analysts who provided optimistic guidance to investors, but the court disagreed.

"We are gratified the judge agreed with Intel that there was no intent on the part of Intel to mislead or defraud investors," said Intel spokesperson Chuck Mulloy.

"The worldwide economy had begun slowing significantly in the third quarter of 2000 and our results for that quarter, while there was growth, reflected slower growth and that in turn was a reflection of the overall economy," he added.

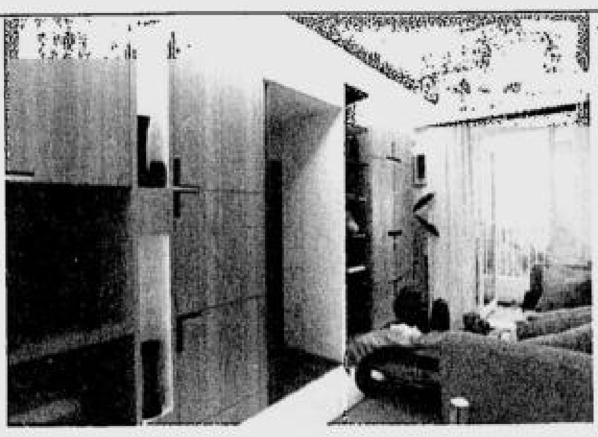
Lawyers representing the shareholders did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment.

Intel's stock, which hit an all-time high of $76 on Aug. 28, 2000, dropped from over $61 to $46.50 on Sept. 22, 2000, the largest one-day trading volume of any stock in history, according to the court ruling. By Sept. 29, 2000, it was trading at below $42.

The lawsuit stems from events that took place between July and October 2000.

In July 2000, Intel projected that revenue for the third quarter would be up from the second quarter, and announced a new 1.13 gigahertz speed Pentium III chip. *Reuters*

One bedroom upstairs.



And downstairs, cafes to unwind in, al fresco dining places to entertain friends, and Zen-themed plazas to calm you down.

THE COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE

The Columns, Ayala Avenue, a three-tower condominium project that puts you within walking distance of everything in Makati's central business district.

The Columns offer not just the comforts of home. On the ground floor level, it has its own Zen-themed plazas where you can stroll. A row of cafes where you can lounge sipping hot java. And al fresco dining spots where you can meet friends.

Call tel. nos. 750-0484, 750-0471 and 849-0551, e-mail us at cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit us at www.communityinnovations.com.ph for more information.

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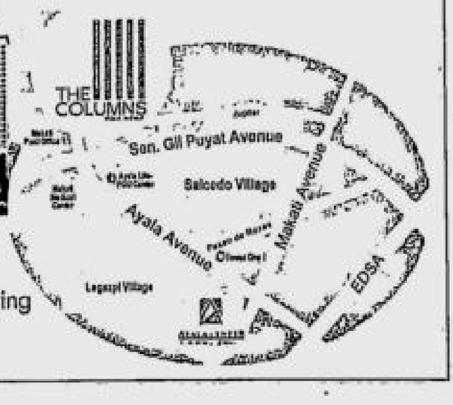

People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Sunset Living at Manila Bay

WATCHING the sunset at Manila Bay has always been one of the most favored activities of many Filipinos and foreigners alike. The city prides itself for having the most beautiful sunset in the world, which you could see along the stretch of Roxas Boulevard.

But, Nowadays that's not the only thing people are doing when they visit the bay. For over a year now, a new sub-center of a fabled metropolis is taking shape on the Manila Bay Waterfront. The new premier residential and commercial community.

Inspired by some of the world's successful land reclamation projects, like Singapore's West Coast and Pasir Ris parks and Japan's Minato Minarai 21 (MM21) district, Metropolitan Park is a 40 - hectare master planned community where you will find one of the city's widest and longest highways ever built, the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard. The DM Blvd. Features a well - constructed thoroughfare that spans from Buendia Avenue, behind the World Trade Center, all the way to the Coastal Mall/NIA road with further expansion leading to Kawit, Cavite. Road users will find this route more convenient especially those going to the Domestic and International Airports, Duty Free and Coastal Highway to the Calabarzon Area.

Financial Institutions, business headquarters, shopping malls and prime residential high rises have taken root at Metropolitan Park with Federalland Bay Gardens Condominiums, Petron Mega Complex and Le Pavillon at the forefront.

Aside from these Federalland projects, Metropolitan Park will soon be the home for the new Manila Doctor's Hospital and Asia's biggest mall - courtesy of SM.

Metropolitan Park is fast becoming a cosmopolitan place that provides many advantages other cities don't have. It has also redefined what living by the bay is like. According to Federalland FVP for marketing Ramon Aldaba, "Lifestyle is an increasingly important factor for people when their choosing a home or the places they want to go to. People who are living in condominiums today do it for lifestyle reasons. If you admire innovative and visionary architecture, but you need a condominium that will pamper the whole person, you should get acquainted with Federalland, Inc."

Interested parties who would like to know more about Federalland's residential condominiums or avail of special promotional financing packages may call Omni-Orient Marketing Network Inc. at 810-4693 to 95 or by logging onto www.federalland.com.ph For reservations of events or activities at Le pavillon, interested parties may e-mail leasing@federalland.com or call 892-6605 or 898-8965. Federalland is a member of the Metrobank Group of Companies.

SIM SWAPPERS SWAMP TOUCH MOBILE SALES CENTERS

Customers mill around a Touch Mobile selling blitz to avail of its SIM swap promo. Under the promo, non-Touch Mobile and non-Globe users can swap their active SIMs for a brand new Touch Mobile Super Value SIM pack for only P79. What's more, swappers get 40 free text messages per month and a discounted Family Circle airtime rate of P5.50 per minute for calls to five registered Touch Mobile numbers, P1 less than the already-low flat rate of P6.50. On top of these benefits, Touch Mobile subscribers are assured of the brand's nationwide, seamless coverage, clarity of calls, speed in sending text messages, quick connections, and unparalleled voice value added services such as the karaoke, voice info and voice messaging. Powered by Globe Telecom, Touch Mobile is the country's fastest growing GSM brand preferred by Filipino families.

EPROSARTAN INTRODUCED

Eprosartan, a new dual acting anglostensin II (A2) antagonist drug for hypertension, was recently introduced to cardiologists at the Makati Shangri-La Manila Hotel. On hand to discuss Eprosartan's unique benefits was professor Heinz Rupp, director of the Molecular Cardiology Laboratory, Department of Internal Medicine and Cardiology at Philipps University of Marburg, Germany. Rupp recommends the use of Eprosartan because its dual action effectively controls both diastolic and systolic blood pressure and the drug is well tolerated by patients.

Saving money the easier way

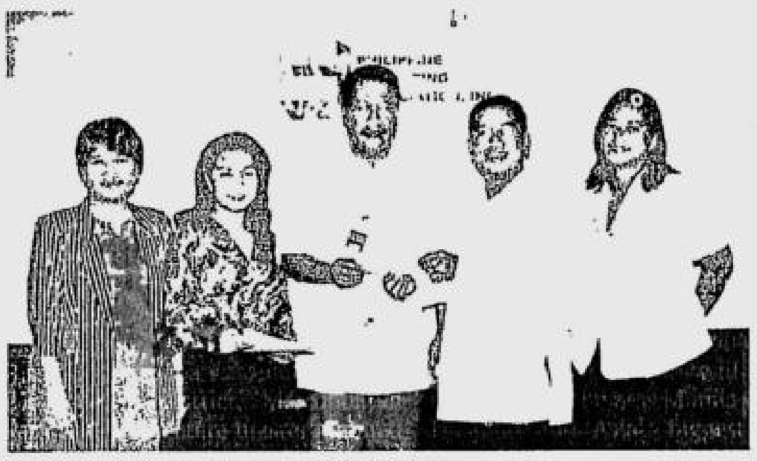
SAVING money is an important step in reaching one's goals, whether these be as mundane as buying a pair of shoes to owning a house and lot in a prime spot in the Metro. Certainly, the peso bill is truly valuable. While saving money is usually linked with personal piggy banks or a trusted bank, there is still another alternative to store those hard-earned money to enable an individual to reach his desired goal.

First Guarantee Life Assurance Co. Inc.'s (First Life) 1st Cash Saver is an alternative way for an individual to save those hard earned money. 1st Cash Saver is the plan for people who would like to receive a return of the premiums they paid after the plan's paying period is completed. "You can save by making ten yearly payments, earn dividends, and get back the full amount after ten years through an annual payout," said First Life's executive vice president and actuary, Jaime Santiago, FSA, FASP. Since it is a participating plan, it shares in First Life's surplus through annual dividends. "You get savings and more on top of your life coverage." As its name implies, 1st Cash Saver will help a hard-worker save to achieve his goal.

First Life is the life insurance subsidiary of the Coyuito Group of Companies. It is the local pooling network partner of Swiss Life and Pension Co., the world's leading employee benefits network, and the international partner of The Dai-ichi Mutual Life Insurance Company of Japan, the second largest life insurance company in the world.

MOA SIGNING

Earth+Style Corp., the lifestyle property developer, recently signed a memorandum of agreement with its third global marketing arm, Taiwan-based recruitment agency, Jrico Trade Investment. The agreement allows Jrico Trade Investment to exclusively market Earth+Style's products to Filipinos based in Taiwan. Present during the contract signing were (front, from left) Earth+Style president and CEO Victor Manarang and Jrico Trade Investment proprietor, Jerry Perez. Looking on are (back, from left) Earth+Style's internal sales team head Philippe Ticzon and Jrico Trade Investment authorized representative, Jeraldine Perez.



PMA GIVES DONATION TO GKF

The Philippine Marketing Association recently handed over their donation to Gawad Kalinga Foundation. In photo are Sonia de Guzman, PMA treasurer; Lennie Gunda, director for community affairs; Raul Dizon, Metro Manila regional coordinator for Gawad Kalinga; PMA president Dr. Leonardo Garcia Jr.; and Anna May del Rosario, committee member for community affairs.

CORY QUIRINO HOLDS LECTURES

Noted TV personality Cory Quirino (shown in photo with DLSU Graduate School of Business dean Philip Juico) was tapped to be one of the lecturers of the Corporate Wellness Management program of the De La Salle University Professional Schools Inc. Graduate School of Business. A relatively new course in the Philippines, Corporate Wellness Management is a 3-unit course that aims to arm its students with the basic knowledge about skills in establishing physical fitness and health programs in organizations.

LA SALLE GREENHILLS '79 PRE-SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

La Salle Greenhills of '79 recently kicked off its pre-silver anniversary celebration by launching the Silverde Foundation and the first of a series of concerts featuring sexy star Aubrey Miles at Ratsky's in Tomas Morato, Quezon City. Dubbed 'Silverde, the last of the 70's', the launch was attended by some 800 guests, friends and supporters of the class. Chaired by Randy Santiago of Kundirana fame, LSGH class of '79 is composed of members who are notable names in the fields of entertainment, business, media and the medical profession.

Reproductive Health Car
29 A 11:30 00 pm
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PRO-REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE BILL ADVOCATES SPEAK UP

Pro-family, pro-choice, anti-abortion. Legislative advocates clear out misconceptions on House Bill 4110 or the Reproductive Health Care Act during a media briefing held recently at the House of Representatives. Key speakers during the briefing were (from left): Representatives Nereus Acosta, Krisel Lagman-Luistro, Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, Kim Bernardo-Lokin, and Women League executive director lawyer Carol Ruiz-Austria. Authored by Rep. Luistro, Rep. Castillo and 67 other legislators, HB 4110 seeks to establish structures to promote reproductive health.

ProductFILES

Mama Sita's Spicy Sauce Mix

Mama Sita's
Caldereta
NET WT. 1.76 OZ

THE old, conventional way of cooking traditional Filipino dishes such as caldereta has been simplified with the advent of easy-to-prepare mixes that cut the frills and lessen the time spent. Mama Sita's Spicy Sauce (Caldereta) Mix, an appetizing blend of Spanish and Oriental spices, provides just the right slightly spicy taste of caldereta, and other tomato-based dishes. Available in 50g packets, Mama Sita's Spicy Sauce Mix carries with it a heritage of cooking excellence that lives on in every Mama Sita's product. Manufactured by Marigold Commodities Corp.

C-Lium Fibre

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IF YOU want a direct and more sociable approach to purging, take C-Lium Fibre with your breakfast. Made from the dry seeds of the plant Psyllium Plantago, it can swell up to 50 times its natural size as it absorbs water and waste material from your colon and intestines. Since the body is exposed to hundreds of antigens daily, the body desperately needs fiber to fight accumulated toxins. Being healthy inside and out has never been this easy. For inquiries call 524-6549 or 524-8146.

Clips

Shell first prize winners' exhibit

TWENTY-three first prize winners of the shell National Students Art Competition (NSAC) will get together again in one memorable art exhibit entitled "Shell First Prize Winners: 1989 - 2002" at the 4th floor Bridgeway, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City starting today. The once-in-a-lifetime reunion of sorts will feature the latest works of the top placers, some of them now already regarded with critical acclaim. The exhibition is slated to run until Aug. 17. The exhibit is open to the public.

Pink celebrity shopper for July/Aug. issue

IYA Villani is the next celebrity shopper of Pink Magazine. Aussie gal Iya is currently one of the mainstays of teen show Click on GMA and also a VJ at Game channel on IBC 13. In Pink magazine's July/Aug. issue, she will show off the great stuff she got at the Jag Jeans store in Alabang Town Center.

July issue of HealthToday

IN THIS rainy month of July, HealthToday talks about a very appropriate subject: food. Giselle Toengi graces this month's cover. All this and much more in the July issue, so get your copy now. HealthToday is available in all bookstores, newsstands and retail outlets nationwide. For subscription inquiries, call 886-0333 local 112, or email enquiry@medimedia.com.ph.

NREA slates awards night

THE National Real Estate Association (NREA) will fete its members with outstanding accomplishments to a testimonial dinner today, starting 6:30 p.m. at The Legend Hotel, Pioneer St. in Mandaluyong City. Held yearly to coincide with the birthday anniversary of the NREA founder and chair, Jose "Ka Pepe" Manalad, the appreciation dinner will have MMDA chair Bayani Fernando as guest speaker. Guests from other sectors such as Sen. Rodolfo Biazon will also pay tribute to Manalad. Inquiries and reservations may be directed at the secretariat at tel. nos. 913-4463 or 912-3492.

Little Tikes, Toy Kingdom launch loyalty program

LITTLE Tikes toys, and SM Toy Kingdom have joined forces to launch the Little Tikes Club and Loyalty Program. Joining the Little Tikes Club entitles members to huge discounts on all Little Tikes items sold in participating Toy Kingdom outlets in SM Megamall, SM Southmall and SM Pampanga. Simply buy any Little Tikes product worth at least P500 at any of the participating Toy Kingdom outlets until today. Accomplish the application form, attach proof of purchase and submit to the Little Tikes booth inside the participating Toy Kingdom outlet, or mail the application to BrandAid Plus Inc., Room 1-5, Facilities Center, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City. Deadline for submission of all applications is today and membership is valid for 12 months.

Wild Vines' Fashionista 2K3

WILD Vines' Fashionista 2K3 is a fashion design contest open to certified college students with a sense of fashion and a talent for fashion designing, who can create the perfect Wild Vines look for women. Participants are to select a motif from a choice of four that represent the different varieties of Wild Vines. Deadline for submission of entries is today. Participants must submit their entries personally at the World Impact Communications Inc. office located at Unit 237, Chateau Verde, Gate 2, Valle Verde 1, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Pasig City. For inquiries, contact Hershey, Jojo or Arlene at tel. nos. 671-1250, 671-1764 or 671-2391.

Big sale from Kickers

KICKERS is having a clearance sale which is until today. Get discounts up to 70 percent on your favorite Kickers products. Get hold of Kickers in Ayala Alabang / Cebu / Makati; Robinsons Manila / Galleria; Shangri-La; SM Megamall / North Edsa / Southmall; and leading department and specialty stores nationwide.

Enervon-C Plus, partners offer more fun for kids

ENERVON-C Plus and popular kiddie entertainment centers are offering more fun to children with exclusive privileges until today. The activity marks the continuation of the mall-based activities after the 'Summer Showtime' events. Proof of purchase of Enervon-C Plus products automatically entitle patrons to receive the ff: SM Southmall and Fairview, Festival Mall - Tom's World Arcade: 60 ml., 1 free token, 120 ml., -2 tokens, 250 ml., - 3 free tokens, 500 ml., - 4 free tokens. SM Megamall, Southmall and Fairview - Storyland: 60 ml., 120ml., 250ml. - 1 free ride coupon, 500 ml. - 2 free ride coupons. Festival Mall - Pixie Forest and X-Site: 60 ml. - 1 free voucher, 120 ml. - 2 free vouchers, 250 ml. - 3 free vouchers, 500 ml. - 4 free vouchers. The privileges may be claimed at the registration counters at the identified outlets and is available for an unlimited number of times provided that proof of purchase is presented.

Adarna House Promo

ADARNA House Inc., the country's leading publisher of books for children and teens mounted a Nationwide Expression Inter-Branch Contest. Two Expressions branches with the highest sales of Adarna House books from June 1 to July 31 will be awarded cash incentives plus plaques of recognition. A special prize will also be given to Expressions Metro Manila branch with the best display of Adarna House merchandise.

Mediterranean Seafood at Edsa Shangri-la's Paparazzi

EDSA Shangri-la's Paparazzi gathers the treasures of the Mediterranean for a splendid Seafood Festival from July 15 to 31. Italian cuisine draws influence from the deep blue Mediterranean Sea that surrounds it. Food in this country is cooked fresh and unfettered by complicated sauces, with wine and herbs giving robust and clear flavors. Seafood, fruits and vegetables are the core of this culinary heritage. Italian Resident Chef Giuliano Ungaro prepares the freshest Mediterranean seafood available a la carte for lunch and is set menus for dinner. Paparazzi is located at the Mezzanine of Edsa Shangri-la, Manila. For inquiries and reservations, call at 634-7373 or 633-8888 extensions 2738 and 2739.

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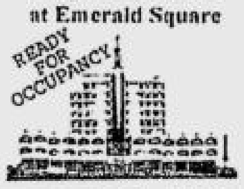

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MARIKINA

nr Ateneo 1BRTB grg 7T 6819583

QUEZON CITY

Cubao P3.5 Std Lady 9124428

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BUSINESS RENTAL

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st Class bldg 85/129/148/185m² 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

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FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

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REALTORS/SEMINAR

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TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

'01 316i TITANIUM SILVER P980T CELL # 0916-6662718

'83 A/T WELL MAINTAINED Dark Gray P415T ALL ORIG. Call 09198616193

KIA

'97 Pregio GS 1st Owned A/T Local 280K T826-9588

MAZDA

•POWER VAN 235T 9267383

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•DELICA A/T 285T 926-7383

NISSAN

91 Nissan Calif. 110T 8245477

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Land Cruiser Safari Surf Pajero Terrano MU Delica Trooper Hi-Lite Ace Space Gear/Wagon Serena Vanette Suzuki Elf Canter etc. Tx.PD. w/ Warranty Finance Trade-In 38 Columbia/15th Ave Cubao Tel. 9120647 ; 09178342020

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CARS FOR RENT

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1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

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★Vans Coaster Bus 440-0171

STAREX'03 MB100 9483535

MB STAREX URVAN 8276605

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Van 0917-6626993 • 6421840

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% Fast Car Loan 5567685

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

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2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

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B/SELL EDUCL PLAN 8061574

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AM. COCKER SPANIEL. PEDIGREE W/ SHOT PAPERS. BLACK OR BUFF. FEMALE. 3 MONTH. P20000 PH8160148

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USING ONLY K9 PSYCHOLOGY
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

•Male Massuer 18-24yo Good Looking 4350978•

FEMALE

All Around Maid; Cook! 4Persons, Good SS.WCT 2600 Legarda, Sampaloc, Manila

MALE/FEMALE

• DIRECT HIRE •
Ofc Mktg Admin / Personnel Start ASAP Col Grad Level 18-45 M/F Ms. KONICA 4381519

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

4 EXP. HI-SPEED SEWER
1 EXP. GARMENT CUTTER
20 MALE EXP ARTISTIC FLOWER ARRANGER 25-35 YRS OLD 20 EXP PROMO GIRL SINGLE 5'2 18 - 24 YRS OLD / PLEASING PERSONALITY CALL 7321942 ; 7321954 9am-5pm Jenet

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING 5280730 589-9958

MKTG STF 09228022987 ECHO

MKTG/OFC STF 09203562010

OFC/MKTG STF 0920-8062187

Wanted by Export Company •1 F, Office Assistant, College Level •2 Warehouse Supervisor, College Level, w/ Experience in Export of Handicrafts, Lives Near Paranaque Area. Submit or Mail Resume to: BCI 8795 San Andres St. SAV2 Sucat

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late AMADA M. PORTUGAL was adjudicated to DINO JOSEPH M. MACALINO per Doc. 116, Page 22, Book 1 Series of 2003 before Notary Public J.M. Miranda of City of San Fernando, Pampanga.
(PDI-July 25, 31 & Aug. 7, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

B/SELL EDUC PLAN 7800106

EARN FR HOME 0917-5065388

• OWN UR LIFE • 8531008 travel and work from home.com 09178981851

EARN P1M in a yr onwrds P12T Capital 09202885979

Earn up to P20T/mo w/ Expanding US Co. 892-6820

WORK FR HOME 724-6210

Kids adult wear 09167940002

NEW 4 STOREY DORMITORY BLDG UNIVERSITY BELT AREA SAMPALOC MANILA 936-1426 / 937-2622

RETIRE 2YRS 0918-9051567

Work from Home 09178267370

NO JOBS IN IRAQ YET
Call POEA
at 722-1144
or 722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Office of the Ombudsman is inviting prospective bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply and delivery of:

- 01 - unit Sports Utility Vehicle, 3.0 ltr., Diesel, 4 x 2

Accreditation requirement and bidding documents may be secured from the Property Section / General Services Division, 2nd Floor, Office of the Ombudsman, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

1. Pre-bid Conference: – 06 August 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
2. Date of Submission:
   a. Pre-qualification Requirement – 11 August 2003 until 4:00 p.m.
   b. Technical & Financial Proposal – 20 August 2003 at 9:30 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids: (Technical & Financial Proposal) – 20 August 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Bid documents will be issued upon payment of non-refundable fee of THREE HUNDRED PESOS (P300.00).

The Financial Proposal shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond either in the form of GSIS Bond, Cashier's/Manager's Check and/or Cash Bond of at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The Office of the Ombudsman reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and to accept the most advantageous to the office.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ERNESTO M. NOCOS
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 30, 31 & August 1, 2003)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Supply, Installation, Testing, Training and Documentation of Enterprise Desktop Management System (DMS)

Approved Budget: **Php 2.7M**
Contract Duration up to **October 31, 2003**

Application for eligibility check is open to suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and has been in the Information Technology (IT) business for at least three (3) years, must be at least 60% Filipino-owned (for partnership and corporations). Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from **August 4 to 6, 2003** at the Procurement Services Division, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City. Submission of the required eligibility documents shall not be later than **August 13, 2003** addressed to:

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Procurement Services Division/PSM
6/F, Development Bank of the Philippines
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Fax No. 8151614, E-mail address: procure-psm@devbankphil.com.ph

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 40 s. 2001 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents which do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call Mr. Manuel A. Tagalo at telephone number 8129428/8151613.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--July 24 & 31, 2003)

AN IMPORTER URGENTLY NEEDS THE FF:

A. ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

M/F, 40 y/o below, coll. grad. of any busines course, at least 3 years sales & marketing experience in the automotive and motorcycle tyre industry, excellent communication skills & willing to travel extensively nationwide, computer literate.

B. MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE

M/F, 35 y/o below, coll. grad. of any business course, at least 2 years experience in the tire industry & willing to travel.

Please send resumé with 2x2 photo & transcript to:

21, 5th St., New Manila, Quezon City
Tel: 724-1798; 724-1805

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SALES EXECUTIVES / SALES ENGINEERS

- Female or Male, below 28 years old, with pleasing personality and good PR.
- College graduate, preferably Engineering or Marketing.
- Experience in the field of industrial or construction sales an asset but not necessary.
- Honest, hardworking, aggressive and result-oriented.

Apply personally with comprehensive resumé and 2x2 picture at:

Unit 2002-C West Tower, PSE Center
(Tektite Tower), Exchange Road,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Republic of the Philippines
National Capital Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 145, Makati City

IN RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE PROBATE OF THE WILL OF CARLOS P. FERNANDEZ, DECEASED AND ISSUANCE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY.

VICENTE T. FERNANDEZ,
Petitioner.

SP. PROC No M-503

- versus -

MIGUEL L. FERNANDEZ and
CARMEN FERNANDEZ BEAVES,
Oppositors.

x - x

IN RE: IN THE MATTER OF INTESTATE OF CARLOS P. FERNANDEZ

MIGUEL L. FERNANDEZ,
Petitioner

- versus -

VICENTE T. FERNANDEZ,
Oppositor.

x - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

ORDER
(Letters Testamentary / of Administration)

A joint decision dated 7 January 2003 having been rendered in the above entitled cases in favor of herein petitioner Vicente T. Fernandez, as Executor, of the last Will of the late Carlos P. Fernandez which has been admitted for probate pursuant to the said judgment and the Order dated . June 2003.

It is HEREBY ORDERED that notice be, and the same is hereby given, requiring all person having claims for money against the decedent, Carlos P. Fernandez, arising from contracts, express or implied, whether the same be due, not due, or contingent, for funeral expenses and expenses of the last sickness of the said decedent, and judgement for money against him, to file said claims with the Clerk of this Court sitting at the 4th floor Gusali ng Katarungan, F. Zobel, Makati City, within six (6) months from the last publication of this Order/Notice which is directed to be published at the expense of the Estate of said decedent, for three (3) consecutive weeks at a newspaper of general circulation, serving a copy of the said claim upon the aforementioned, Vicente T. Fernandez, the appointed Executor of the last Will of the said decedent, relative to herein subject Estate.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, this 1 July 2003.

(Sgd.) CESAR D. SANTAMARIA
Presiding Judge

(PDI – July 31, Aug. 7 & 14, 2003)

CAR FOR SALE

1) **Honda Accord**
Black, 97 Model, Plate ending 1, 50,000 kms., Price: P480,000.00

2) **Terrano**
Red, 97 Model, Plate ending 9, 51,000 kms., Price: P490,000.00

Please call:
823-2627 / 0917-3230637

Rottweiler Puppies

For Sale

PCCI Registered 3f / 2m
Born: 11 March 2003 12T PHP

Good lines, sire & dam available to see with the pups

Call for more details:
948-9827 / 948-9395

The 4th Circle of 10 Image Model Search

"NAME four or five fresh and stunning newcomers in showbiz and chances in showbiz and chances are two to three of them were discovered in ads or TV commercials," exclaimed Louie Gamboa, the Supervising Producer of Ivan Entertainment.

This statement is also a big factor why the Circle of 10 Model Search was launched in the year 2000. On its 4th year now, the Circle of 10 has answered the call of advertising agencies for more fresh and young talents since its onset.

The search for today's vibrant and exciting TV commercial and print ad models will culminate on August 9, Saturday at the Star Theatre of Star City CCP Complex along Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. In cooperation with Mossimo, AMA Computer-University and RPN 9 Circle of 10 pageant will be hosted by Ryan Agoncillo, Karen Agustin, Bb. Pilipinas Universe 2003. Delayed telecast on September 13 at 9 p.m. over RPN 9.

Spearheaded by Tom Adrales, the 4th Circle of 10 Image Model Search has 39 candidates, 17 females and 22 males with ages ranging from 15 to 18.

The show's major sponsors are Country Waffles, Manila Bulletin, MOD Magazine, Women's Journal, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Microgenesis, Club Morocco, and Photography by John Leaño, Randy Florendo Salon, Blue Onion, 8th Day Bar Café, 99.5 RT, UK Derm, Snapple, Gatorade, Coffee House, Redboa Artists Exponents Co., and Studio by Dominique James.

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F BA Lepanto Building
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines

Tel. No. 892-0293
892-0283
810-7161

Fax No. 892-0346

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY, SHORT LISTING AND TO BID

The PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites Filipino and foreign Consultants, to apply for eligibility and short listing and if subsequently found eligible and short-listed, to bid for the *Development of Master Plan for the Centralized Utilities and Facilities in the Petrochem Park*, with a project duration of one hundred eighty two (182) calendar days, providing the following services:

- review the latest development plan prepared for the Petrochem Park, and validate and update as necessary the assumptions made therein.
- from the programmatic EIA and own database of Consultant, do a supply-demand analysis of utilities at Petrochem Park at various stages — current, with Cracker, and at full development.
- prepare a Pre-Feasibility Study to identify which among the CUFs in the Petrochem Park are feasible.
- develop an overall Master Plan for the CUFs in the Petrochem Park indicating the location and preliminary design basis or parameters for each CUF vis-à-vis the process plants to enable preparation of investment and operating cost estimates acceptable to PPDC and its potential joint venture (JV) partners and utility/facility enterprises.
- formulate siting guidelines and standards for the establishment of each CUF.
- evaluate various business options that PPDC may undertake for each of its CUFs, and recommend most viable scheme for each CUF.
- develop an action plan including detailed implementation and critical path plan leading to the establishment and operation of each CUF.
- shortlist and recommend potential investors and JV partners for each utility/facility in the Petrochem Park.

The Requirements for Eligibility and Short Listing shall be secured from:

The BAC Secretariat
PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation
11/F Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo De Roxas, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 750-2693 / 892-1420
Fax No. 810-6418

Said documents shall be available at the above address during regular office hours, starting July 25 to August 7, 2003 until 5:00 p.m. A non-refundable payment of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) shall be paid to cover the cost of application forms.

All Eligibility requirements must be submitted on or before August 21, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the above address. The eligibility envelopes shall be opened in public at the abovementioned place at 2:30 p.m. of August 21, 2003 to determine the eligibility of each of the Prospective Bidders to participate in the public bidding of, and to undertake the Development of Master Plan for the CUFs in the Petrochem Park, subject to Short Listing and Post Qualification guidelines. The Short Listing Criteria shall consist of experience (40%), personnel (50%) and job capacity (10%). Only parties who pass the eligibility check and short listing shall participate in the actual public bidding. Bids of eligible and short-listed bidders shall be evaluated under applicable guidelines of quality-cost based evaluation procedures. The approved budget for this Project is Ten Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP10,600,000.00) inclusive of VAT.

PPDC shall send invitations to short-listed Consultants on September 22 and 23, 2003. Bid Documents to Short-listed Consultants shall be issued at the above address from September 24 to 26, 2003, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. and 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Pre-bid Conference shall be conducted on October 3, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. Deadline for submission and opening of bids is on October 17, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. Venue of both the Pre-bid Conference and Opening of Bids shall be at the above address.

PPDC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the agency or the BAC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or cancel the bidding due to supervening events. PPDC also reserves the right to waive any required formality in the bids received.

Signed this 22nd day of July, 2003.

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Chairman,
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 23 & 31, 2003)

Featured Combos

Flintstones & The Gang

RJ n Friends

Moonstrucks

Rockin' Revival

Amazing Retro Revolution

A DANCE PARTY CONCERT
(Junior Senior Prom)
August 1, 2003
6PM to Sawa

Le Pavilion (School Gym)
Metrobank Ave. Metropolitan Park
Edsa cor. Roxas Blvd.

1st Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Awards

Food Booths	**Jail Booth**
Slot Machines	**Celebrity STAR Band**
Surprise Guest Performers	**WIN RAFFLE PRIZES**

For the benefit of:
The Haven for Children
(A Project of the Congressional Spouses Foundation, Inc.) and
Manila Rock & Roll Foundation, Inc.

FOR TICKET SALES CALL:6331645, 6348013

Tickets are available at the following Sarabia Optical Outlets: Alabang Town Center, Alabang; Robinson's Place Manila, Ermita; Greenbelt Mall 1, Makati; SM Mega Mall, Mandaluyong; SM City North EDSA, Quezon City; and One Luna Lifestyle Center, Eastwood City, Libis. Tickets are also available at Dish, Rockwell; Strumms, Jupiter; Grills in Libis and Makati; and Famous Desserts/Bar, Greenbelt 3, Makati.

TICKET PRICE:
P1000

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IN OVER 1500 LOTS INCLUDING: -

PCB DRILLING/ROUTING & ASSOC. EQUIPMENT - HITACHI 2&6 Spindle Routers (1998); (17) HITACHI 4 Spindle Drills (record 1997); SHODA TECHTRON MCF-700W; DFL 680 SF 2000 Bevelling Machines (1997); UNION Tool Setters/Pointers (1997)
PRESSING, SHEARING & SAWING - (2) AMADA TP100 Open Fronted Power Presses (1997); MATUNO MS 4512 Guillotine; Treadle Guillotine; SHODA TECHTRON ACS - 1300 NC Auto Cut Saw (1992); (2) VIGOR Foil Slitting/Cut to Length Lines
PHOTO/MASK EQUIPMENT - HITACHI HLM A60 Auto Cut Laminator (1997); (5) ORC HMW 201/HMW 680 Exposure Machines (1997); (3) DAINIPPON DR 565F X/Y Measuring Machines w/ Camera; KODAK "Kodamatic 7200" Processor; DAINIPPON RG400 Laser Plotter; (3) Dry Film Laminators; (16) C-SUN 2-Door Ovens; C-SUN UVC 844S UV Curing Oven; C-SUN CLO-7-5 5 Zone Oven (1997); HP "Kayak" CAD/CAM Computers c/w Planmaster Software (2001)
INSPECTION & TEST EQUIPMENT - ORBOTECH SK65 Automatic Optical Inspection Machine (2002); ORBOTECH VRS-4-Li Verification Station (2002); (2) UTRON 8000 HV III High Speed Bareboard Testers (1997); AIKOH 1310N Load Tester (1997); CMI XRX 50 X Ray Thickness Measuring Machine (1997); SHIMADZU UV1201 Spechtrophotometer (1997); COSMOPACK SMA 222 Vacuum Skin Packer (1997); OLYMPUS PME 323 Inverted Microscope c/w Camera; (50) Microscopes; Large Range of Measuring Tools
CLEANING & PLATING LINES - PAL 3 meter Copper Plating Line (1997); AEL Electroless THP Copper Plating Line (2001); PAL Gold Tab Plating Line (1997); TCM Pre Etch Line (1997); TCM Develop Etch & Strip Line (1997); TCM Desmear Line (1997); TCM Copper Foil Surface Prep Line (1997); TCM Lamination Finish Line (1997); UNICOTE 175 Hot Air Solder Level Line (1997); (5) IML Scrubbing Lines
ENVIRONMENTAL/SITE SERVICES - Waste Water Treatment Plant c/w DI Water Treatment Line (1997); (5) TEXEL Tail Gas Scrubber (to 2001); (2) TAKUMA TWS-600 High Tech Boilers (1997); (2) KOBELCO AL 90 AH/12 Screw Compressor c/w Dryers (1997); KATOYOSE Incinerator (1997); (2) NS CTA 80/CTA 350 Cooling Tower
FACTORY FURNISHINGS (over 600 lots including) - Personal Lockers; Plans Cabinets; HD Boltless Racking; Storage Racking; Industrial Vacuum Cleaners; Laboratory Fittings & Glassware; Stainless Steel Service Trolleys; Stainless Steel Mobile; Tables; Plastic Bins; Plastic Pallets; Workbenches; Voltage Regulators; Chain Blocks; Hand Tools; Weighing Scales
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Computers; Photocopier; HP Laser Printers; HP Color Plans Plotter; Desks; Chairs; Meeting Tables; Partitions; Conference Table; Lateral & Vertical Filing Cabinets; Factory PA System
CANTEEN EQUIPMENT - Modern Canteen including Range; Fridges; Warming & Serving Stations; Cutlery; Canteen Chairs & Tables;
LAND & BUILDINGS (for negotiated sale) - 30,000 square meter land area; 10,250 square meter building area

SALE DATE: TUESDAY 5TH AUGUST 2003 – 10:30AM
ON VIEW: FRIDAY 1ST, SATURDAY 2ND & MONDAY 4TH AUGUST 2003
FROM 9:00AM TO 5:00PM & MORNING OF SALE DAY
AT: LIMA TECHNOLOGY CENTER, SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE
BARANGAY SANTIAGO, MALVAR, BATANGAS, PHILIPPINES
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: PHP50,000 (UPON REGISTRATION)
PLEASE BRING VALID ID TO BE PRESENTED DURING REGISTRATION

HENRY BUTCHER
GoIndustry INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL & VALUATION

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
Rm. 102 Jolliland Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City, Philippines
Tel No.: +(63-2) 852-2910 * 11 Fax No.: +(63-2) 831-9507
E-mail:manila@henrybutcher.com
Website: www.henrybutcher.com/www.goindustry.com

Bidding for F & B Concessions

Alabang Country Club, Inc. will bid out all F & B outlets. Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification forms from the office of the General Manager.

FACTS

1. ACCI will undertake a 3-year rehabilitation program of its main Clubhouse with an outlay of P70 million.
2. Due to pressing demand for new badminton courts, a P10 million structure will be added to the racquet sports complex.
3. In order to improve F & B services, the club is spending P8 million to completely renovate the main kitchen, from walk-in freezers to drainage and ventilation. Completion is expected on August 31, 2003.
4. Locker Rooms for Men and Ladies are undergoing renovation.

STATISTIC

Gross Receipts from all F & B outlets for the year 2002 Php 50.4 million.

Gross Receipts from all F & B outlets for the 5 months in 2003 Php 20.3 million.

SCHEDULE

Pre-qualification Forms Availability	: Starting August 01, 2003
Submission of Pre-qualification Papers	: August 22, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference	: August 29, 2003
Submission of Bids	: September 05, 2003

Bidders may bid only for F & B outlets within their range of financial and organizational resources.

For particulars, please call up the office of the General Manager at Tel. Nos. 842-3530 local 160 or 807-0335.

(PDI – July 30, 31 & August 2, 2003)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-PSD 2003-0006

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

Date of Bidding : August 8, 2003 - 10:00 a.m.
E-bidding : August 15, 2003 - 2:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
6AI	VARIOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES		
	1) Binder, Spiral, Etc.	OSSD03-0013	P 1,571,854.00
	2) Toner, Ink Cartridge, Etc.	OSSD03-0014	1,440,565.00

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Department of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php100.00 per schedule starting on July 29, 2003. **Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. No bid documents will be issued three (3) days before the date of bidding.**

Bidder is oblige to participate in E-bidding. Failure to do so will be a sufficient ground for disqualification.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bids proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - July 26 & 31, 2003)

OPPORTUNITY
KNOCKS
BUT ONCE.

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Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
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condole with the family of

NORMA DIZON USSHER

who now peacefully rests in the infinite grace and goodness of the Lord on the **30th of July 2003** at the age of 59.

Her loving husband **Douglas T. Ussher**, children **Jenny & Jojie, James & Kelly, Jerome; grandchildren Angel, Abbey and Jamiely; brothers, sister & spouses: Rosalie & Fred, Danilo & Girlie, Ramon (†) and Techie; brothers & sisters-in-law: May & Baby, Jean & Mel, Frances & Deejay, Leonard & Marlene, Vangie, Albert & Tracy, Edward & Annie**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the
La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.
Interment will be on August 6, 2003 (Wednesday) after the 9:00 am Mass.

"From darkness let the light shine!" Genesis 1:3

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" **Matthew 11:30**

SOLEDAD "CHOLENG" AZCARATE ALCANTARA

She carried all our burdens for us and lifted them all up to the Lord.
She was our strength and our inspiration.
God received her into His loving embrace on the 29th of July, 2003 at the age of 92.

In loving memory, her bereaved children & in-laws:
ROBER (†) & GIGI
MYRNA & TOTOY BASA
VIOLETA & VIRGILIO MENDOZA
MONINA & RODOLFO (†) MACAM
ISRAEL & LINDA
MARILYN & HENRY LEUNG

Grandchildren:
ROGER WILLIAM ALCANTARA
ANTHONY BASA, ARNOLD BASA, MAGGIE & DENNIS SWEENEY, ANDREW & AIMEE BASA, RICHIE BASA
NESTOR "JAY" & SANDRA MENDOZA, JOEL MENDOZA, LILIBETH & ARNEL TRINIDAD, LIZA MENDOZA, GLENN MENDOZA
EILEEN & TITUS MANALO, JASMIN & JESSIE MARCELO, PETER & SHERRY MACAM, SHEILA & HENRY ABES, CARYL & LARRY MACAPANPAN, RYAN MACAM
PAUL ALCANTARA, MARICAR & JOY SO
KARL FREDRICK LEUNG, TIMMY LEUNG, E.J. LEUNG, JUSTINE MARIE LEUNG

And great grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Mount Carmel Shrine Parish Church, Broadway Street, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, August 3, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass at the Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish Church.

ARTURO L. VELOIRA, SR.

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on 30 July 2003 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife **Nenita C. Veloira**; children **Rey & Marichu, Miriam, Marites & Jun, Marissa & Darwin**, and **Arturo Jr.**; sister **Amelia V. Ferrer**; and grandchildren **Christian, Christopher, Junjun, Tintin, Jenjen, Jerald, & Hannah** request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz (Southwing - Chapel 7) in Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, 2 August 2003, 1:30 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Our Dearly Beloved TATAY

BIENVENIDO "Bening" AGTARAP VALDEZ

of Marikina City and Balaoan, La Union
Passed away in the Grace of Our Lord
On July 28, 2003 at the age of 75.

His bereaved wife **Rosa**; children **Tony & Edna, Mario & Baby, Rey** and **Joy, Popot & Vicky, Totit** and **Ayi & Rannie**; grandchildren **Yayoy, Macoy, Marion, Marionne, JV, Tracy, Katrina, Camille, Reeane, Corine, Nico, Angelica** and **Tintin** and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at their residence at #18 G. Puyat St., Loyola Subdivision, Marikina City. Interment will be on Sunday, 2 PM at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

LUCIO PELIÑA ANTONIO

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on July 30, 2003 at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife **SUSAN**; sons **ALVIN, VINCENT & GIRLIE**; brothers & sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, Philam Homes, Las Piñas City and will be transferred to the family residence at Bo. Timalan, Naic, Cavite on Saturday, August 2 at 10 a.m.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 5, 2003, 1:00 p.m. at Nazarene Cemetery, Naic, Cavite.

" ... absent with the body to be present with the lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

NONA GRACE ROA PIZAÑA

Joined her Creator
on July 29, 2003 at the age of 68.

She is survived by her loving husband **Brig. Gen. Dalmacio Pizaña Jr. (Ret.)**; children **Aleli** and **Noel, Mèlanie** and **Al, Lorie**, and **Melissa** and **Herald**; grandchildren **Josiah, Misha, Miggy**, and **Mikaylah**.

Her remains lie in state at her residence at 51 Ernestito St., Don Jose Heights, Commonwealth, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 3rd of August, 2003 at the Eternal Garden Memorial Park at 3 p.m.

"My soul, be at rest in God alone, from whom comes my hope." **Psalm 6 2:6**

Our Dearly Beloved Mother

Monserrat "Nena" Sierra Lee

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 28, 2003 at the age of 71.

We, her family, thank all our relatives and friends who offered sympathy and prayers in our time of grief. We ask that you remember her in prayer.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

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MOTORING

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

X-Trail to shake SUV market in RP

By Tessa R. Salazar

A HIGH-PERFORMANCE compact sport utility vehicle—the first manufacturing venture of Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. into the SUV market—was introduced to the motoring media last week by the name of X-Trail.

Auto enthusiasts and spectators filled the NBC Tent to get a first glimpse. Spotted were representatives from other auto manufacturers, while show-biz personalities Joyce Jimenez, Christopher de Leon, Ryan Agoncillo, Matt Ranillo and Albert Martinez provided the glitz and glamour.

Not just any star

The real superstar, doubtless, was the X-Trail. And it wasn't just any star, it was touted as a well-groomed action star, ready to take on the rough and tumble of extreme Philippine road conditions and still end up standing, with pomaded hair still in place. The X-Trail boasts of its polycarbonate front fenders, which absorb impacts and snap back to its original form without cracking or discoloration.

The NMPI entry into the SUV market is seen as proof of Nissan's confidence in the Philippine automotive market.

X-TRAIL

Common technologies with the Skyline GT and advanced vehicle systems combine to provide this SUV with a luxury car.

Globe-trotting tour

X-Trail comes in basking in a successful globetrotting tour. Shortly after its June 24 Malaysian debut, the X-Trail almost immediately dominated the country's SUV market. The same trend was observed in Indonesia, though only the 4x2 variant was made available. The X-Trail was also said to have dominated markets in Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Australia. The Philippines is not expected to be an exception.

The X-Trail was first introduced in 2000 in Japan after a successful launch at the Tokyo Motor Show the previous year. Nissan said it quickly became the No. 1 selling SUV in the Japanese market, easing out erstwhile leaders Toyota RAV-4 and Honda CR-V, largely because of its performance characteristics: "rapid acceleration, taut handling and true sedan-like ride."

More about the X-Trail: It has anti-lock braking system with electronic brake force distribution and brake assist and supplemental restraint systems for driver and front passenger.

Under the current tax laws, the X-Trail is priced at P1.199 million for the 2-liter 4x2; P1.333 million for the 2-liter 4x4. The 2.5-liter 4x4 is priced at P1.495 million.

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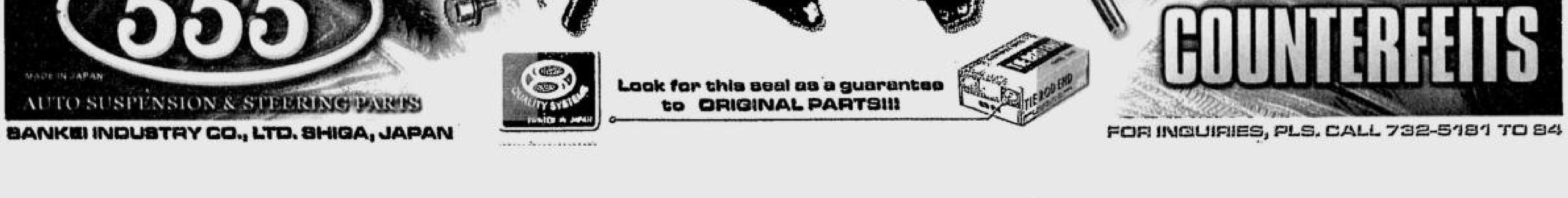
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Nat'l auto club addressing motorists' changing needs

By Charles E. Buban

HAVING been in existence for the past 72 years, there is always one thing the Automotive Association of the Philippines (formerly Philippine Motoring Association) has never forgotten: not to become too old.

"There's this tendency to be contented, no longer taking the initiative to do some more—as an organization we have to stay in the know with the prevailing issues in the motoring industry as well as maintaining sharp ears for concerns our motoring public may have," said Antonio Mapa, president of the country's leading automotive association.

"Otherwise, what's the use of staying this long. We have to stay relevant for our members as well as the general public," he added.

Early warning device

Early warning devices

Apart from intensifying its emergency roadside services for its members, the AAP these days, is actively coordinating with government regarding motorists' use of early warning devices.

Mapa said they submitted before Malacañang a position paper urging the use of early warning devices and imposing stiffest possible fine for not having one in the vehicle.

"We feel that since we are a national automotive association, it is our responsibility to take a stand on issues such as early warning devices," Mapa explained.

"The value of human life is such that there should never be a life lost where the cause is lack of early warning device. For us that's inexcusable," he added.

Easing traffic congestion

The AAP is also now busy with its "ambitious project" of turning Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City into a model thoroughfare. The street, where AAP office is also located will be cleaned up—removing all accident-causing debris. Also on the street, correct traffic signs and signals will be installed and the traffic flow in several of its choke points will be redesigned.

The organization is hoping that with Aurora Boulevard's transformation, other perennially congested streets can follow suit.

Said Mapa: "A lot of motorists out there thought that AAP is just an emergency roadside assistance organization. We can provide them assistance in every aspect of motoring, even protecting their interests through advocacy."

Worldwide concern

Being a member of international organizations Alliance Internationale de Tourisme of Geneva, Switzerland and Federation Internationale de l'Automobile of Paris, France, the AAP is looking forward to attending a conference on roadside assistance, membership communications and travel agency operations to be held in Marseilles, France.

"Perhaps this is one advantage we have over other automotive organizations in the country. Being a member of these two prestigious international bodies, we have a voice in the international scene and at the same time, we can relay here whatever developments there are in the world of motoring," said Mapa.

Indeed, with legislative advances in environmental standards (such as the Philippines' Clean Air Act) and safety means that vehicles must be cleaner and safer than ever before, the role of motorists are changing, too.

"There has never been a more important time to get involved," said Mapa. "And I believe the AAP can serve as an effective partner of motorists to ensure that their concerns are heard by the proper authorities and actions can be done."

Discipline the key to being Trike King

TRICYCLE driver Carmelo Quiapos may have been the fastest among the 250 competitors in the Shell 2T Triple Tricycle King Challenge here.

But Quiapos wasn't declared the winner. He wasn't wearing his uniform when his name was called.

"Discipline, more than skills, is what the competition recognizes," said Ferdie Vasquez, Shell representative for Southern Luzon during the Tricycle King Challenge at the Fiesta World Mall here.

Quiapos lost not only his P5,000 prize to 2nd placer Francisco Rocamora but also his right to represent Southern Luzon to the national finals in Manila in December. Rocamora and 3rd placer Roderick Hernandez were the lucky ones who got it.

2 challenges

The Tricycle King Challenge is held every month in different major cities, with the top two finishers getting the crack for the national prize. It is held side by side with the Shell Rimula Jeepney King Challenge, a contest for jeepney drivers.

Vasquez noted that these contests seek to recognize drivers of public utility vehicles who not only drive well but follow traffic rules to the letter. "We want to promote discipline," he said.

Reynaldo Lasin of San Juan, Batangas, was the fastest in the Jeepney King Challenge. He will be joined by 2nd placer Leuterio Virtusio, from Rosario, Batangas, in the national finals.

The next challenge is set in Dumaguete and Bacolod on August 8 and 9.

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Volvo purchases from June 2 to Aug. 1 are entitled to two raffle coupons, while purchases from Aug. 2 to Oct. 2 are entitled to one raffle coupon.

For the grand prize, the "Grand Winner Takes Another" raffle requires the winner to decide between a 100-percent cash rebate of the purchase price of the newly acquired Volvo and a brand-new Volvo of the same model purchased (as stipulated in its sales invoice).

The second prize awards a 50-percent cash rebate of the purchase unit's price (as stipulated in the sales invoice). The third prize is a 25-percent cash rebate of the purchased unit's price.

P2M at stake in Ford Environmental grants

PROTECTORS of nature, culture and heritage could their chance to be awarded for their efforts and gain financial help for their worthy causes.

The Ford Motor Co. Conservation and Environmental Grants for 2003 has allotted a total of P2 million to be awarded to deserving projects on conservation and preservation of the environment, culture and heritage.

Henry Co, president of Ford Group Philippines, said the Ford grants program has been successful in building Ford's corporate citizenship efforts through its support for the conservation and protection of the environment, natural resource, culture and heritage, for future generations to appreciate.

The Philippine grantees for 2002 included the Mangrove Friendly, Solar-Powered Mudcrab culturing of the Center for Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency for conservation engineering; "Advocacy for the Conservation and Management of Ligawasan Marsh toward Sustainable Development by the Maguindanaoan Development Foundation and many others.

Ford has supported a total of eight projects in the Philippines in 2000.

Running on its fourth consecutive year, the program involves the giving of project grants to deserving environment-oriented organizations in Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia.

TRS-Ford Lynx Cup stages rounds 1,2

WHILE MUTINEERS were staging Saturday's coup at the Oakwood Tower in Makati, seven racers struggle to take the pole position from Saturday's Tuason Racing School-Ford Lynx Cup qualifying race at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Emerging as the Top Driver Challenge winner for the first round was Jeff Borja, followed by actor Dominic Ochoa.

Placing third was Egay Quesada, followed by Simon Gemayel, DJ Matt Yngson, 17-year-old Dalia Guerrero and karting champ Pia Boren.

Ochoa lorded it over at Round 2, followed by Borja. Following Borja was Quesada.

Doing the ceremonial flag off was TRS head JP Tuason, Johnny Tan of BRC, Steve Acayan of Petron and Lyod Manaloto of Ambi Pur Car Perfume.

The series participants are graduates of the Tuason Racing School. All the competitors are novices in circuit car racing. Succeeding rounds will be held in September.

The TRS- Ford Lynx Cup is presented by Addict Mobile and cosponsored by Goodyear, Standard Insurance, Ambi Pur Car Perfume, Red Horse Beer, Adidas, MTV, Petron, Fuji Films, Race gear Pitshop, H&R springs, Autoextreme, Trapik.com and Drive Concept Wheels.

Gatekeepers and car stickers

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

OTHER than mulcting traffic policemen, few things irritate motorists more than the rule requiring drivers to surrender their licenses to security guards at the entrance of a gated village. No matter who you are, if your car's windshield does not bear a gated residential subdivision's current sticker, surrender your driver's license you must..

Lawyers have threatened to challenge in court the constitutionality of the surrender-your-driver's license rule imposed on the motoring public by many villages. They argue that only law enforcement agents of the government are authorized to make a driver surrender his license. What happens, they ask, if you get involved in a traffic accident inside the village and you don't have your driver's license? But so far, as far as I know, no brilliant legal mind has succeeded in striking down the gatekeepers' rule.

Ornery hassle

The hassle of dealing with gatekeepers (the security guards in uniform who man the gatepost) raises the blood pressure of many a motorist.

Vested with the power to decide who can enter and who cannot, gatekeepers can become arbitrary and unreasonable. Even when you submit your driver's license and the resident you intend to visit had already telephoned them earlier to expect your arrival, sometimes the gatekeepers still insist on verifying with the resident whether they should let you in ... while you sit in your car, stewing. I have often had this experience with the gatekeepers of Dasmariñas Village, Makati. Some people say that Dasma's gatekeepers are the most ornery and difficult to deal with.

Either the power goes to the gatekeepers' heads or the one you are dealing with is in a foul mood. (Perhaps he got up on the wrong side of the bed, or his wife nagged him this morning?) Sure, many gatekeepers try to be polite, but they remain smugly single-minded: either you surrender your driver's license, or you don't get a gate pass. They will not accept any other ID, even an ID that has the driver's photo.

A reader informed this column that motorists using the one-kilometer road in Multinational Village, Parañaque City, on their way to Moonwalk, Merville and Better Living subdivisions or Bicutan are fuming because they are charged a P20 toll by heavily armed gatekeepers of Multinational.

Burned outpost

"Some of them are rude, arrogant and discourteous in the performance of their duties," writes Gilbert Cordero of Moonwalk. Cordero thinks that angry motorists may have had a hand in toppling the gatekeepers' wooden outpost every night when they were no longer around. A couple of months ago, Cordero reports, the gatekeepers found their outpost burned and destroyed. So they built a new, fireproof one made of GI sheets. Tired of paying P20 to the gatekeepers every time he drove through, Cordero finally bought a Multinational sticker for P500.

For that's the only way to avoid confrontations with gatekeepers. Buy a nonresident's sticker every year if you have to shortcut through a gated village daily or bring your kids to a school within that village.

Even if you don't have to enter a gated subdivision so often, if its roads present a convenient detour from traffic jams or flooded streets along your route, you have no recourse but to buy the nonresident's sticker.

But it will cost you a pretty sum. A Dasma V. nonresident's car sticker costs P1,200 while that for a nonresident student of San Agustin University, which is located inside the village, is P700. At Bel-Air near Rockwell, it's P1,000–P1,500, depending on the curb weight of the motor vehicle. A BF Homes Parañaque nonresident's car sticker costs P1,000 and if you buy it after January 31st, the price goes up to P1,500 because of a 50 percent penalty. An Alabang Hills nonresident's car sticker will cost you P750 every June. For nonresidents of Ayala Alabang Village, a car sticker costs P750. It goes down to P300 if you are a nonresident student of Woodrose or La Salle Zobel, but the student must have the school's endorsement for the sticker.

Lost or misplaced

Another problem created by surrendering your driver's license to village gatekeepers is the distinct possibility that it may be lost or misplaced. This has happened to at least two motorists I know: Johnny Angeles when he was executive director of Automobile Association Philippines (formerly the Philippine Motor Association) and Kenneth Quintal, editor in chief of C! Magazine. Johnny's solution: photocopy your driver's license front and back in color, have the copy laminated and present this to gatekeepers instead of the original. If the gatekeeper objects, point out to him that every thing he needs to know is on the photocopy: your ID picture, your signature, address, date of birth, sex, height and weight.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.)

Chito Bertol seeks GMA help

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

IF plans to establish a provincial bus terminal along Edsa from East Avenue to North Avenue, Quezon City, would push through, I just hope that the luscious greenery in that area—the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation Inc.—be spared from Bayani Fernando's seeming rapacity to kill every growing green in the metropolis.

As early as March this year, Luisito "Chito" M. Bertol wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo to beg the President to order Fernando not to touch the Seedling Bank. Chito is president and general manager of the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation, the only remaining breathing space on Edsa consisting of seven hectares.

For years now, Chito, the undisputed Elvis Presley of the Philippines before he assumed his highly demanding twin posts at Seedling Bank, has been the nation's guardian of clean air and green surroundings. If there's one guy who answers to the calling Mr. Environmentalist, that's Chito Bertol himself.

* * *

Fernando's planned bus terminal on Edsa will not solve the traffic mess since various colorum buses and numerous provincial vehicles ply along Edsa. It's a good start, but the key really is to radically ground all colorum buses in the metropolis.

Eradicate the colorum buses and the flow of traffic will greatly improve. Schedule the entry of provincial buses into the city and that will help ease traffic in the metropolis.

Suggestion: Instead of training his sight on the Seedling Bank, why does Fernando not zero in instead on those huge squatter colonies for his planned bus terminal? Perhaps, he won't because squatters are also voters; hasn't he declared his intention to run for vice president in 2004?

* * *

To better understand Chito Bertol's position, below is his letter to the President:

"Dear Madam President:

"We hasten to write you this appeal regarding a grave concern of this Foundation, which has also been your serious concern as expressed in your having signed the Clean Air Act into law.

"Specifically, we are directly adversely affected by the establishment of North Terminal (from East to North Avenues) for provincial buses going to and coming from the northern provinces (Vide Sec. 4(a), even as we are one of the entities mentioned in Sec. 6 of the subjective executive order to be adversely affected.

"The Foundation enjoys usufruct over seven hectares of the North Triangle property located at the corner of Quezon Avenue and E. de los Santos Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. For so many years now, the Foundation's premises is the only green spot in practically the sea of environmental pollutants along Quezon Avenue and E. de los Santos Avenue, providing commuters, the public in general, and the surrounding areas a veritable breathing space where fresh air is still available in a highly polluted surrounding. This is the very reason we greeted with jubilation your having signed the Clean Air Act into law. At last, after all these years when there seemed to be only chaos in government efforts to take a direction in having a clean atmosphere, we now have the Clean Air Act to look up to and take our bearings from when air pollution is in issue.

"However, this latest development of establishing a North Terminal for provincial passenger buses in the North Triangle area which has direct adverse effect of greatly worsening the air pollution via a high concentration of buses belching out great amounts of carbon gases in the area vis-à-vis the great efforts of the Foundation to keep the area as a healthy lung for commuters and the public in general, is diametrically opposed and run counter to the very goal of the Clean Air Act.

"Accordingly, we address this urgent appeal to Your Excellency to exempt any portion of the Foundation's present 7 hectares usufruct in the North Triangle area from being carved out in establishing the North Terminal for provincial buses in keeping with the goals of the Clean Air Act. We appeal to you Madam President to help us give substance to the Clean Air Act and help maintain whatever healthful and wholesome environment that is still left in this area less poisoned with emissions from vehicles merely passing by.

"We trust that with your concern for a healthful and wholesome atmosphere our urgent appeal will find a listening ear in you and the greater interests of a clean environment will carry the day."

Nicely done, Chito. I'm sure Ate Glo will have in mind granddaughter Micaela's future after she reads your appeal.

* * *

The Excise Tax Law on vehicles will be passed on third reading shortly. It is the general view that once the new law is passed, passenger cars might stage a stunning comeback and become the preferred vehicles over SUVs and the like in the near future. That's because they'll command much lower prices than the rest of the competition.

But knowing the Filipino mood, I think that will not happen overnight; it might not even happen at all.

Filipinos have become big vehicle-oriented. They now go more for family type rides like AUVs and SUVs than the smaller rides like sedans; the big bulk of buyers are still parents who would have in mind their children and grandchildren before they even think of buying a new ride.

Picnics and other family outing always come first when it's vehicle-buying time. Thus, you see the streets crowded with Revos, Adventures, Crosswinds, CR-Vs, Troopers, Pajeros, RAV-4s, Patrols, Expeditions, Hi-Aces, Urvans and Starex vans.

Also, the issue of safety gives big vehicles a built-in advantage.

Only those wanting to own a vehicle for the first time are inclined to go for cars; mostly, they are the young ones belonging to both middle and upper-middle classes, unmarried if not just starting to climb up the corporate ladder.

* * *

Here's a glass to Honda Cars Philippines Inc. for winning an award from the highly respected Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP). Its Honda Civic was named the "Compact Car for the year 2003 by CUP's Annual National Consumers Award Board (Ancab). CUP is the only legitimate group that sets up standards and quality voting via an impartial analysis of the nation's products year in and year out.

* * *

QUOTE ME. It's best to park with your vehicle not facing the wall, particularly in areas found inside malls. It's easier to get out, especially during emergency situations.

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STALLED TRADE TALKS

Ministers search for compromise in WTO

MONTREAL—Trade ministers from 25 countries meeting behind closed doors here in an attempt to give momentum to stalled global trade talks started positioning themselves Tuesday for a showdown over agricultural subsidies.

The three days of informal World Trade Organization talks here, which will conclude Wednesday, come just ahead of a September WTO summit in Cancun, where progress of the latest round of free trade talks will be measured.

So far, the Doha Round of talks, launched in the Qatari capital in 2001, has advanced little, with none of the deadlines fixed for negotiation modalities respected.

The talks at a barricaded downtown Montreal hotel are aimed at giving a major thrust to find consensus on the divisive trade issues of farm subsidies and medicine for poor countries that could breathe new life into the free trade talks.

Ministers and WTO officials were meeting Tuesday to try to hammer out how to progressively reduce agricultural export subsidies and decide on how to provide access for developing countries' products to enter rich nations' markets.

But all eyes were on whether the European Union and the United States would take further steps to reduce their respective agricultural subsidies — seen as crucial to moving the global trade talks forward.

"There were new elements introduced, some new approaches put forward for greater flexibility for developing countries, but some countries — like the US, EU and Japan — think there needs to be a higher level of ambition with respect to the tariff cuts (then the current negotiating text)," said one WTO official, speaking on background.

"The developing country point of view is that they need to be very selective in where they can bring down these barriers.

"They need to protect industries that are in their infancy to give them a period of time to adjust to global competition, so that's the central debate at the moment," the official said.

A European Union official, meanwhile, said that the EU proposed to cut its domestic subsidies by 60 percent as part of its recently reformed Common Agricultural Policy.

"We are ready to show that we are determined to reduce our subsidies, like the WTO asked of us," the EU official said. *AFP*

REUTERS

WTO's Supachai Panitchpakdi

US consumer confidence suffers spill

NEW YORK—US consumer confidence took a surprise spill in July as worries over rising unemployment took a heavy toll, the Conference Board reported on Tuesday.

The result provided a muted counterpoint to cheerleading from government officials. Treasury Secretary John Snow on Tuesday took time off from a bus tour of the Midwest to tell television network CNBC the economy was "spring-loaded to go."

Not all Americans, it seems, are convinced. The private research group's monthly consumer confidence index slid to 76.6 in July from 83.5 in June.

That was the lowest reading since March, when the invasion of Iraq was in full swing, and completely confounded analysts, who had looked for an improvement to 85.

The index that measures jobs hard-to-get rose to 33.1 percent from 31.9 percent in June, its highest level since 1994. That mirrored a jump in the national unemployment rate to 6.4 percent in June, also a nine-year peak. *Reuters*

AN UNEXPECTEDLY sharp decline in consumer confidence jarred Wall Street in the morning sending stocks lower on investor fears of a stumbling economy in the months ahead. AP

Merrill Lynch executive resigns

NEW YORK—Thomas Patrick, the No. 2 executive at Merrill Lynch & Co., plans to retire, the Wall Street brokerage announced late Tuesday.

It was not immediately clear whether Patrick would be replaced as executive vice chairman of finance and administration.

Patrick, 60, was instrumental in the leadership transition after O'Neal was named to take over the top post from former CEO David Komansky in 2001. Patrick also played a key role in planning Merrill's ongoing restructuring, which has brought massive cutbacks and eliminated more than 24,000 jobs since late 2000.

No reason was given for Patrick's departure. Patrick was not available late Tuesday and he did not immediately return calls for comment.

Patrick joined the company in 1978. *AP*

Slow exports hit Japan

TOKYO—Japan's industrial output fell well below expectations in June, hit by slower export demand for electronics and cars, tempering some of the recent optimism over a pickup in the world's second-largest economy.

Output fell a preliminary 1.2 percent from May on a seasonally adjusted basis, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) said on Wednesday, worse than the median forecast of a 0.3 percent rise in a Reuters survey of 22 economists.

A slowdown in export growth to almost zero in June after 13 straight months of increase was behind the decline in output, as demand in Japan's two largest markets, Asia and the United States, slowed in line with their economies.

Slow exports and weak output will raise doubts over recent optimism about the Japanese economy, although economists say things are still on track to get better later this year.

"For June, it's been a bit worse than we thought but the quarterly number was consistent with the view that the economy was more or less flat," said Matthew Poggi, an economist at Lehman Brothers.

"With inventories still falling, we are still confident that output will resume growing in the second half of the year." *Reuters*

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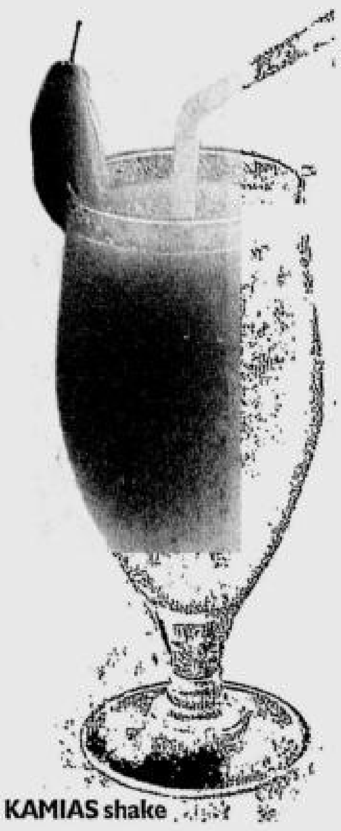
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**



KAMIAS shake

Continuing a culinary legacy

Sérye builds on its roots as the fourth-generation offshoot of the beloved Aristocrat of old

BONELESS
Crispy Pata

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Rudy Esperas

FIRST there was Aling Asiang, the Engracia Reyes who founded Aristocrat restaurant, the baby boom generation's most cherished food haven on Roxas Boulevard.

Then there was daughter Teresita Reyes, the Mama Sita of the popular Filipino food mixes.

Next came the founder's granddaughter and namesake who managed several of the restaurant's franchises.

Today, the fourth-generation Reyeses have continued the family's rich culinary heritage by setting up their own new restaurant. The result is modern sophistication that pays homage to revered tradition.

"What we offer is not simply home-cooked Filipino comfort food, but food Filipinos love to eat," says Alvin Reyes Lim, president of Sérye Restaurant & Café.

While it's true that his family used to own three Aristocrat franchises, Lim clarifies this is no longer the well-known restaurant of old. "We bought the old place and opened a new company," he says.

Of the three franchise locations, Lim retained two for his new venture: Quezon Memorial Circle, QC, and Sucat (in front of Jaka Building), Parañaque.

The name Sérye is a play on the Reyes name, so that while the concept may be new, it still connects this baby company to its progeny.

Family favorites

There was a confusion over identities at first, stemming from Sérye's menu which many had associated with the old resto.

Lim says the former's menu was, after all, made up of his great grandmother's recipes.

"[The dishes on the menu] have always been the Reyes' family's favorites," he says.

Not that it's the same old fare. For starters, Lim did away with the old, long menu that listed food for the entire day. He gave it a Sérye twist by dividing the food list into groups and categories. He also added several new and original recipes.

The breakfast menu, for instance, now includes a Longganisa Festival with sausages sourced directly from Vigan, Lucban, Cabanatuan, Pampanga and Tuguegarao.

"We want to introduce as many variations of *longganisa* as much as possible. We are constantly looking for new sources to extend our list," says Carmiña Reyes Lim Arroyo, Sérye finance director/baker and sister of Lim.

Variation is the name of the game. The Appetizers/Pica-Pica list includes, among others, two kinds of *sisig*—Sizzling Sisig and Sizzling Seafood Sisig, both topped with tidbits of crunchy *chicharon*.

"There are several variants of *sisig*—soft, hard, with mayo, with egg... [Sérye] combines everything, all the favorite points of *sisig* lovers," says Lim. Sérye also wants its food to be known as innovative and unique, and so the Sizzling Gambas is interestingly mixed with egg.

Bestsellers

To the famous barbecues have been added salmon and tuna.

Lim says the No. 1 bestseller is still the Chicken Barbecue, followed by Pork Barbecue—predictably Pinoy choices. The unex-

CONTINUING/ C2

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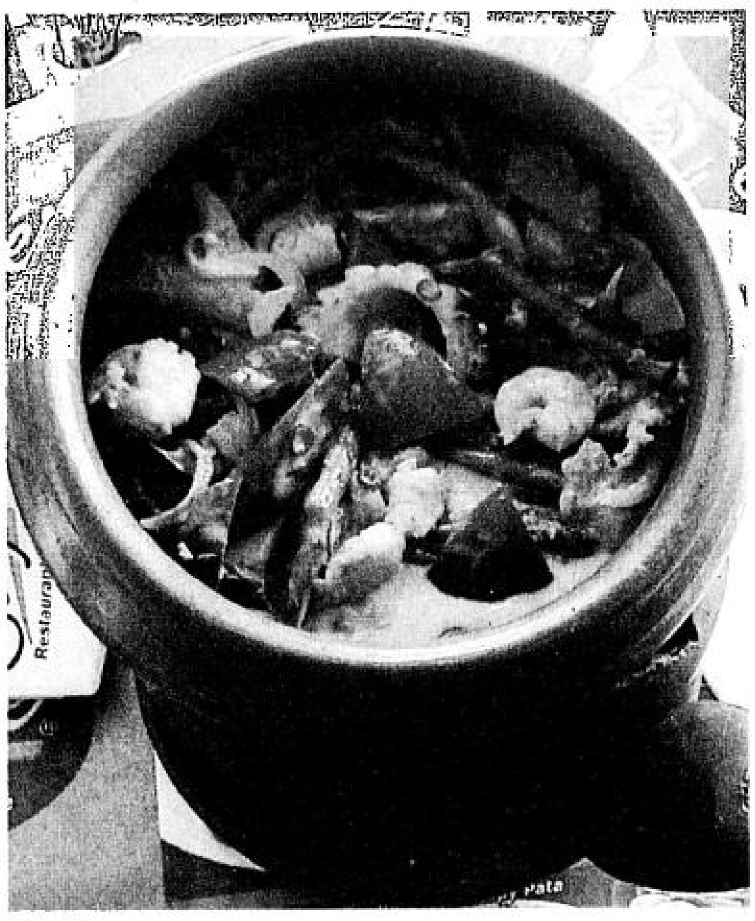
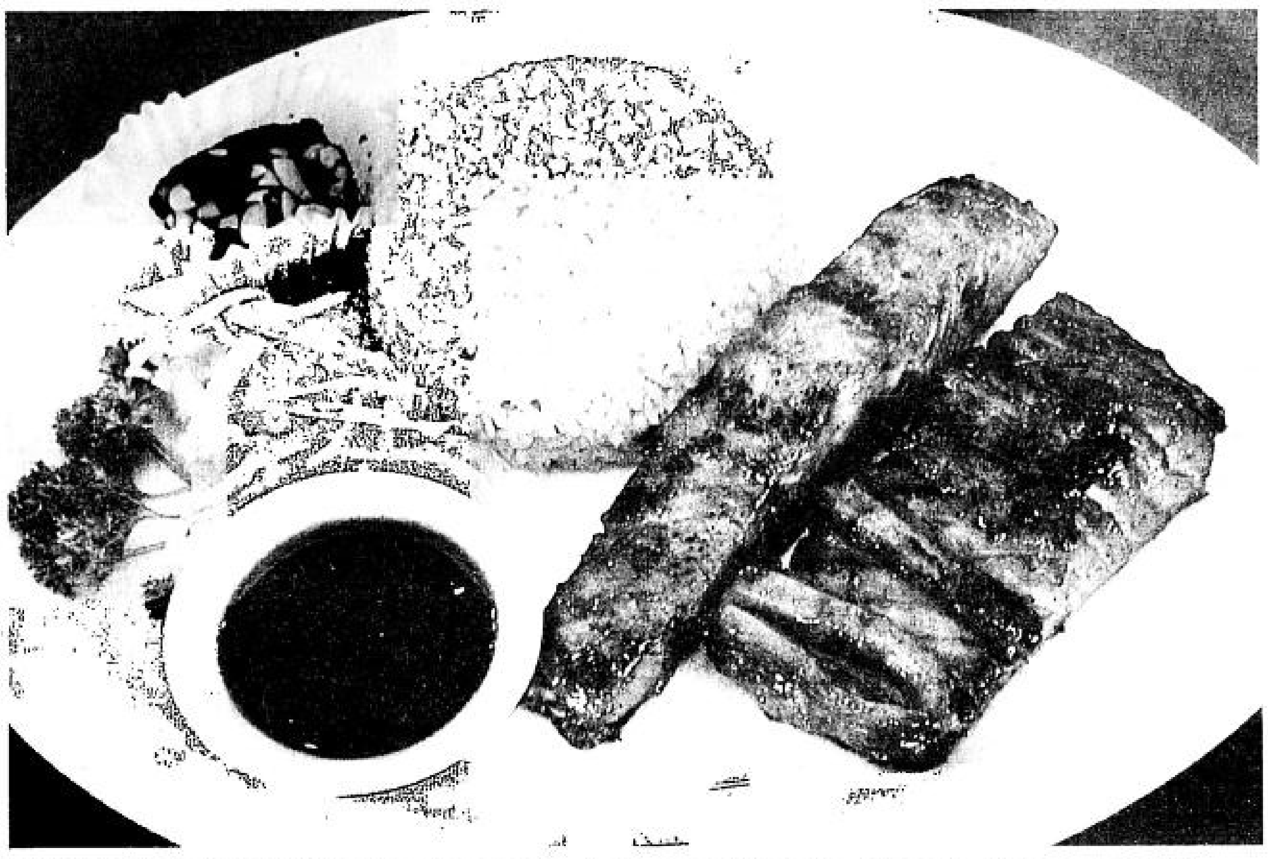


SÉRYE Express



SEAFOOD Barbecue Special combo, salmon and tuna barbecues with Java rice, Java sauce, *atchara* and dessert

SIZZLING Sisig topped with

Continuing a cu

From page C1

pected surprise, however, is the rise of salmon as its third bestseller, pushing Spareribs Barbecue to fourth place.

Since barbecues are Sérye customers' all-time favorite dish, the place now offers combo barbecues for those who want to mix and match, say, seafood and pork.

These combos include Java rice, Java sauce, *atchara* and dessert—a truly filling meal even for heavy eaters.

Winning over customers, health-conscious or not, is the rising star Boneless Crispy Pata—round slices of tender pork meat, seasoned just right and with slivers of fat held together by delightfully crunchy skin.

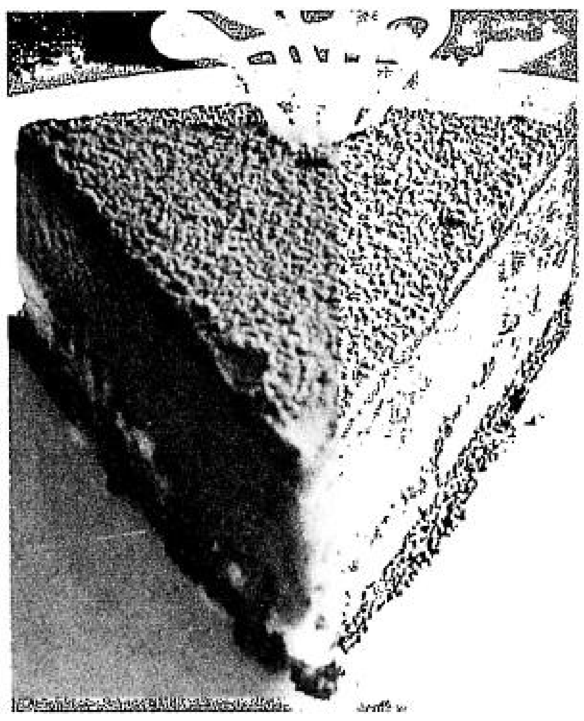
But if the deboned pork takes out the fun for those who enjoy poking and picking apart their pig's knuckles, there's always the Regular Crispy Pata.

Lim says Bicolanos are sure to enjoy Sérye's Bicol Express. Of course, there's always Sérye Express, akin to *pinakbet* with *gata*, for those who cannot tolerate the original red-hot Bicolano dish.

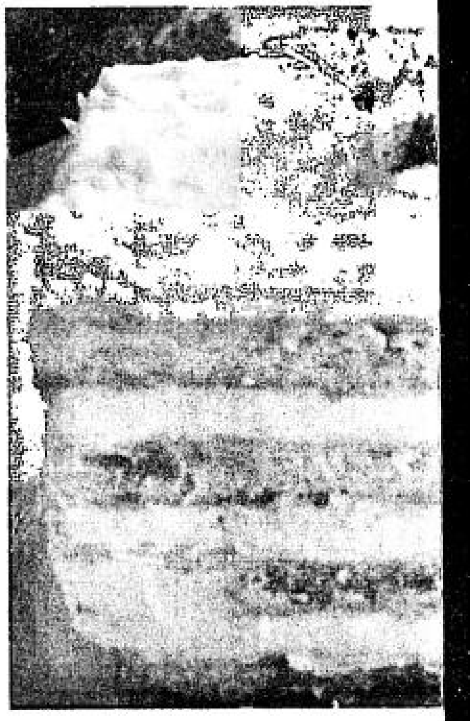
Coffee and sweets

A major departure from the old concept is

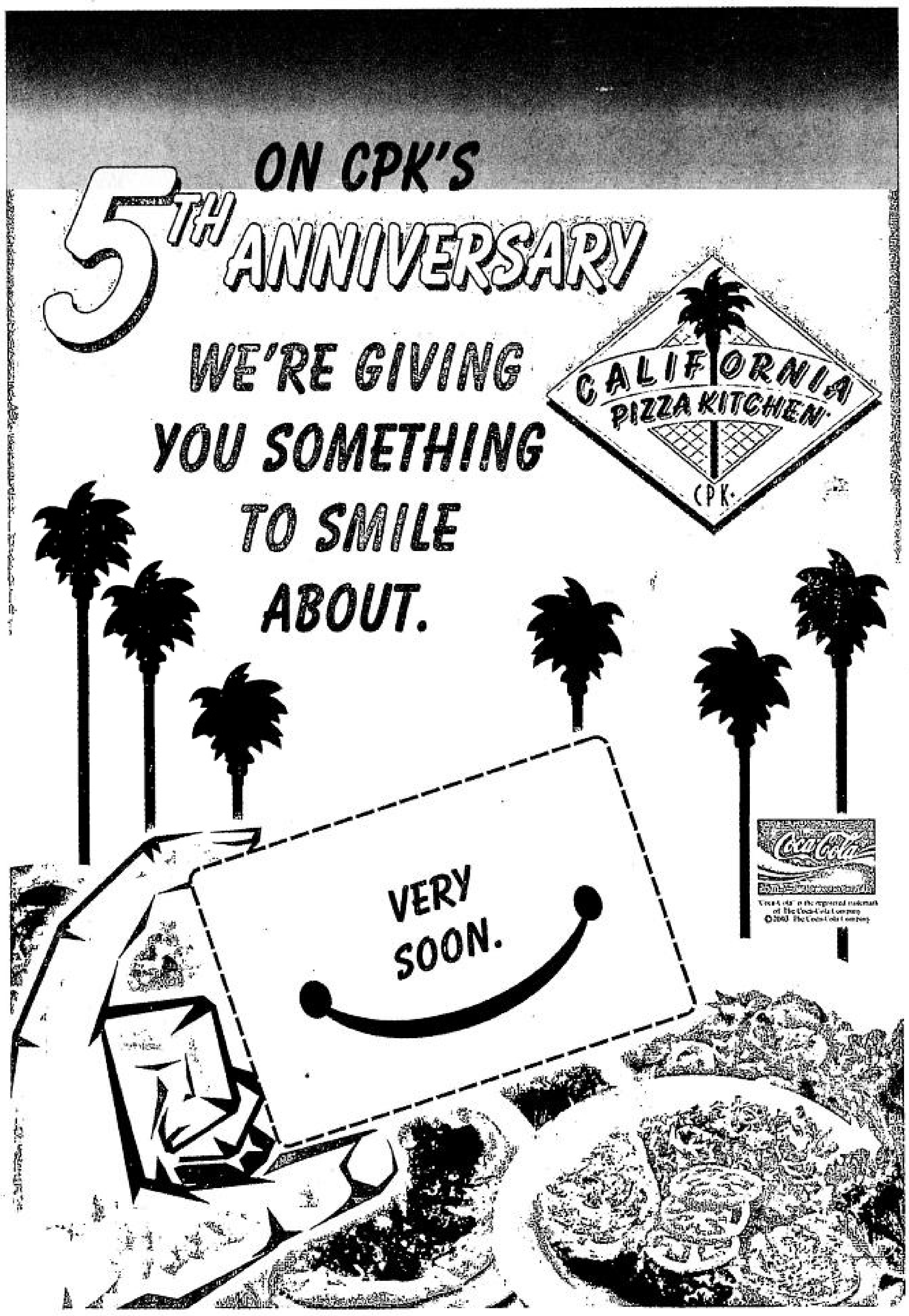
ALVIN Reyes Lim and Carmiña Reyes Lim Arroyo



TRIPLE Choco Cheesecake



SANS Rival



LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL DISH FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION?

HAM HAS THE WOW FACTOR

It's your parents' anniversary. Or maybe Kuya's graduation. Your little girl's 7th birthday. Time to mark another milestone in your family's life. But are you tired of serving the same old party dishes? If you want to try something different, but want to make sure people will enjoy what you serve, why not serve a Christmas ham like Purefoods Fiesta Ham, even when it isn't Christmas?

"Why not?" counters Helene Z. Pontejos of the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, "when people serve Purefoods Fiesta Ham during other special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries or despedidas, their guests get really excited. It's really a pleasant surprise."

Many housewives who buy Fiesta Ham during non-holiday seasons say that they like the convenience of it. After all, you just bake it and glaze it---and voila, you've got a centerpiece dish that everyone likes. Because Fiesta Ham has so many fond memories associated with it, it lends an extra festive air to other special celebrations.

For children's parties, why not serve ham roll-ups or fancy mini sandwiches using colored breads (this you can order ahead from, the neighborhood baker). Or you can lay the ham slices on tortilla bread and roll it up, slice it and you have ham roll-ups. Cut up Fiesta Ham into a star or other fancy shapes using a cookie cutter and these become nutritious pick-me-ups for the children.

It's unexpected, it's not traditional. But when your guests come to your table at the next special occasion, and their eyes light up when they see an old favorite even when it isn't Christmas, you'll be glad you served Purefoods Fiesta Ham.

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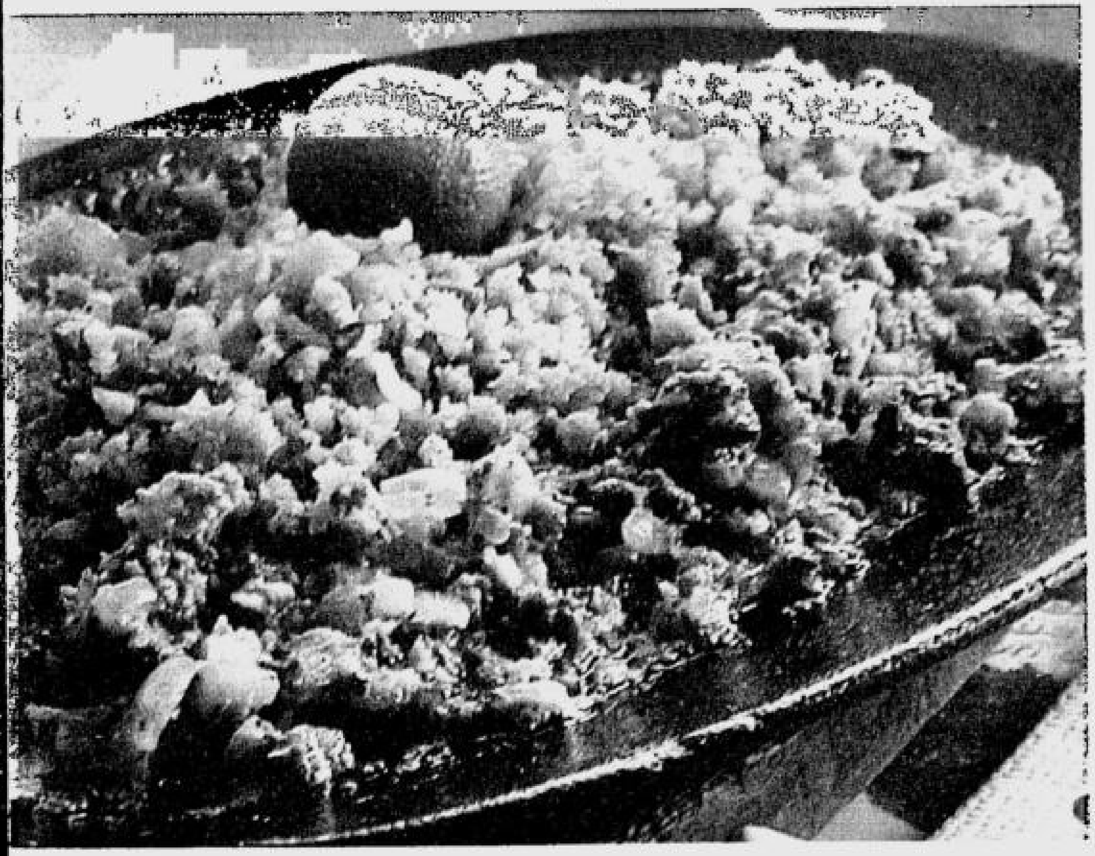
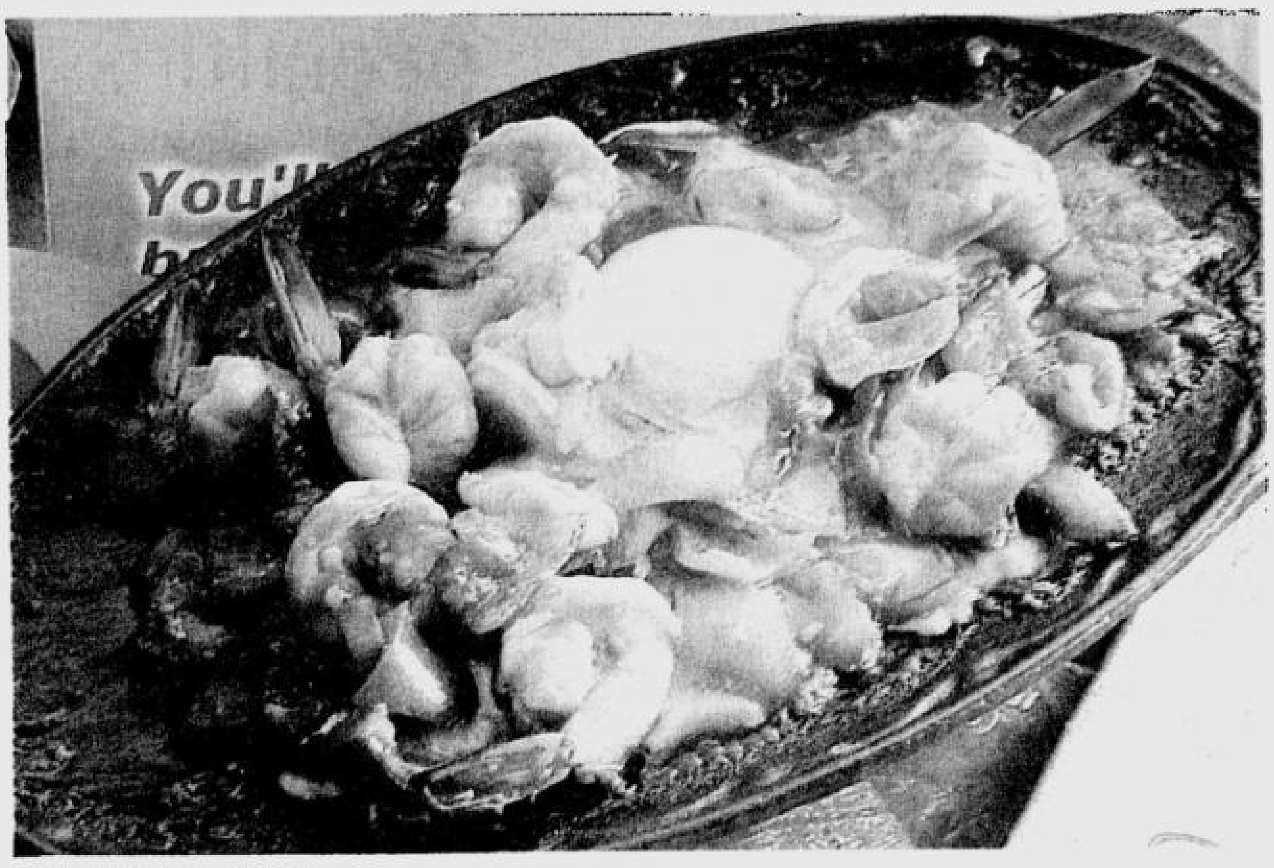


crunchy *chicharon*



SIZZLING Gambas with egg

linary legacy

the coffee shop that has been drawing in a growing crowd during weekends. "We are the Filipino version of the French café or bistro, [hence] the coffee shop," says Lim.

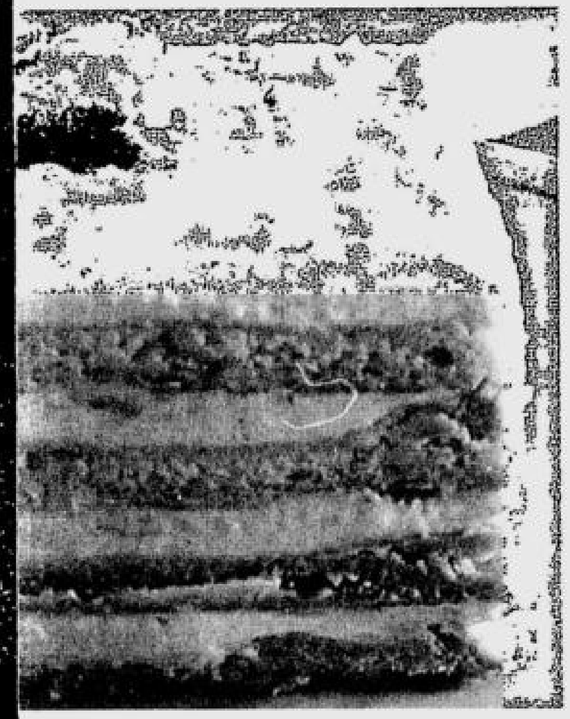
The coffee shop offers original confections such as Benguet and Barako brews, and Café Tablea.

"As much as possible, we wanted it to be Filipino," says Arroyo. The coffees are brewed with the special siphon brewing that guarantees cleaner, purer, more aromatic coffee, with no bitter aftertaste and no unwanted sediments gathering on your tongue each time you take a sip.

Arroyo also bakes for the coffee shop's pastries and cakes section. For, indeed, what is coffee without the sweets?

"People are now starting to appreciate good pastry with coffee," she says. Her company, Carmine's Desserts, whips up choice treats such as Triple Choco Cheesecake, Oreo Cheesecake, Mango Cheesecake, Carrot Cake, New York Cheesecake, Rum Cake and Sans Rival.

Arroyo's cheesecakes are rich and creamy, their firm texture consistent in every bite—certainly not the floppy, mushy kind with whipped cream overload available elsewhere.



Popular sauces, other bottled recipes and pre-packed ready-to-cook food will soon be available at the Sérye deli counter.

Sérye can seat up to 180 persons and also has a function room. It also offers catering and delivery services (tels. 924-3411 and 426-2693, QC; 825-4691 and 826-9317, Sucat).

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

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PARTY PLANNING IDEAS

HAM IT UP!

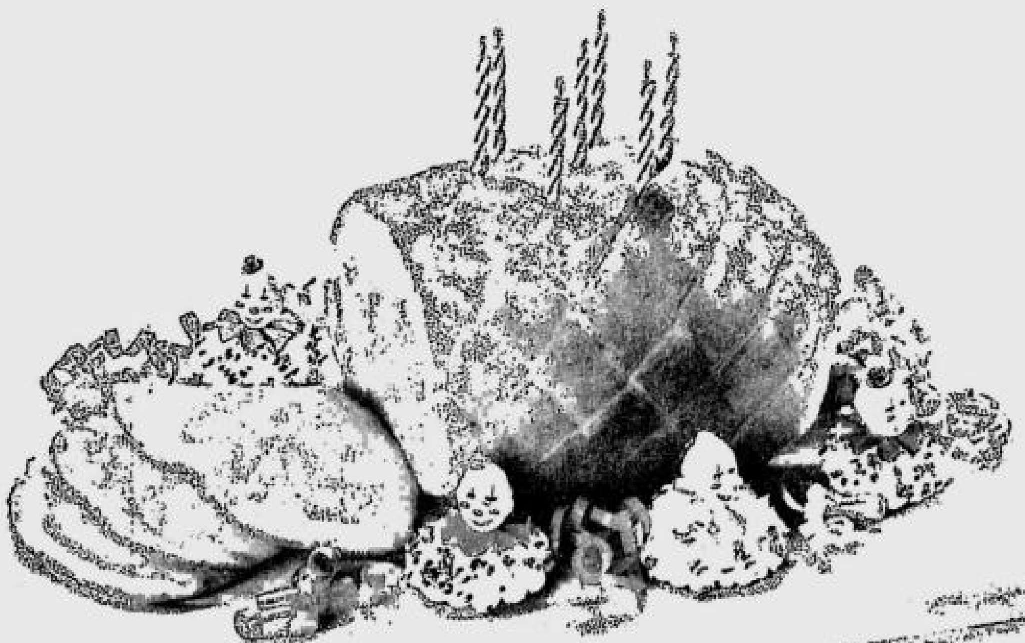
Tired of serving the same old party dishes like kaldereta, mechado and galantina? Are your celebration menus becoming predictable? Then maybe it's time to surprise everyone by serving something people only expect during Christmas---Purefoods Fiesta Ham. It's a centerpiece dish that never fails to bring a smile to every Filipino's lips, calling to mind fond memories of *noche buena* at Lola's house.

According to Helene Z. Pontejos of the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, "People write us to ask where they can buy Fiesta Ham even when it isn't the Christmas season, then they're surprised when we tell them that's actually available all year round". Ms. Pontejos says that Purefoods Fiesta Ham goes well with many different dishes, so it's not hard to plan a menu around it. "Birthdays, anniversaries, name it...it's *bagay*", says Ms. Pontejos. She says Fiesta Ham is especially appreciated in parties where there are balikbayans or people leaving the country, because it's the taste of home.

But is there any other way to serve Fiesta Ham aside from the usual baked whole ham? "Of course!" replies Ms. Pontejos. For merienda get-togethers, she suggests a sandwich bar, where you can serve sliced Fiesta Ham with pugon pan de sal and kesong puti slices where guests are free to do their own sandwich. You can also serve it with different types of sauces on the side, like honey mustard, applesauce or a berry-type sauce.

It's unexpected, it's not traditional. But when your guests come to your table at the next special occasion, and their eyes light up when they see an old favorite even when it isn't Christmas, you'll be glad you served Purefoods Fiesta Ham.

Happy Birthday!



PUREFOODS
Fiesta Cooked Ham
Spread the magic of Christmas at every celebration.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Feast on Chinese specialties

THE COURTYARD, located along M. Orosa Street, Malate, Manila, offers Chinese specialties like pork brain nuggets, mixed seafood with beancurd in hot pot, saffron fried rice, squirrel fish, soup no. 5 and red bean crepe. Call 5361924.

DINING OUT

SEGAFREDO Zanetti Espresso Bar at Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center serves set lunch meals that include main course, soup, salad and dessert. Call 7574058.

CALIFORNIA Pizza Kitchen, located at Tomas Morato, Shangri-La Plaza, Glorietta 3 and Alabang Town Center, gives away a complimentary glass of wine when you order Carne Asada pizza or Spicy Shrimp and Scallop Marinara pasta.

OUTBACK Restaurant offers a set meal package available for a minimum of 10 and includes complete meals from entrees, side dishes, desserts and beverages. Visit its branches at Glorietta 4 (7298458), Libis (6343801) and Alabang Town Center (7721845).

DIMSUM 'N Dumplings launches the P12 Asado Siopao promo in kiosks and express counters at Philam Life Tower Paseo de Roxas in Makati; SM Supersale Club North Edsa; Ever Grand Plaza Monumento; Department of Foreign Affairs on Arnaiz Avenue, Pasay City; V. Luna Avenue, QC; SM City Bacoor; Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall; Robinsons Place Manila; Petron Station Bocaue, Bulacan; Nepo Mall Angeles City; Gaisano Mall and Victoria Plaza in Davao City.

POPEYES Chicken and Biscuits features Buttermilk Biscuit a la Mode topped with vanilla ice cream and glazed with chocolate syrup. Popeyes outlets are located at SM Southmall, Robinsons Metro East, New Farmers Plaza, Robinsons Galleria, Filinvest Festival Mall-Alabang, Greenhills Shopping Center, SM Bicutan and Greenbelt 1.

TGI Friday's offers party packages that include kiddie meals, balloons, invitation cards, party hats, lootbag with goodies, name tags and party banners. Call 7527685 (Glorietta 3), 5265334 (Robinsons Place Manila), 3728539 (Hotel Rembrandt, QC), 8429355 (Alabang Town Center) and 6827047 (The Brickroad, Sta. Lucia).

MOTHER Sachi, one of the first vegetarian restaurants in Manila, is holding its Food Fair today and on Aug. 6 and 7. Try the famous Buco-laing, Sisig, Enchilada, Gardener's Pie, Spaghetti Salad, Leche Flan, Buco and Apple Pies and more. The restaurant is at 1180 Chino Roces Ave., San Antonio Village, Makati City. Call 8978232 or 8908324.

KENNY Rogers now serves Kenny's Krispy Chicken together with Kenny's side dishes and corn muffins.

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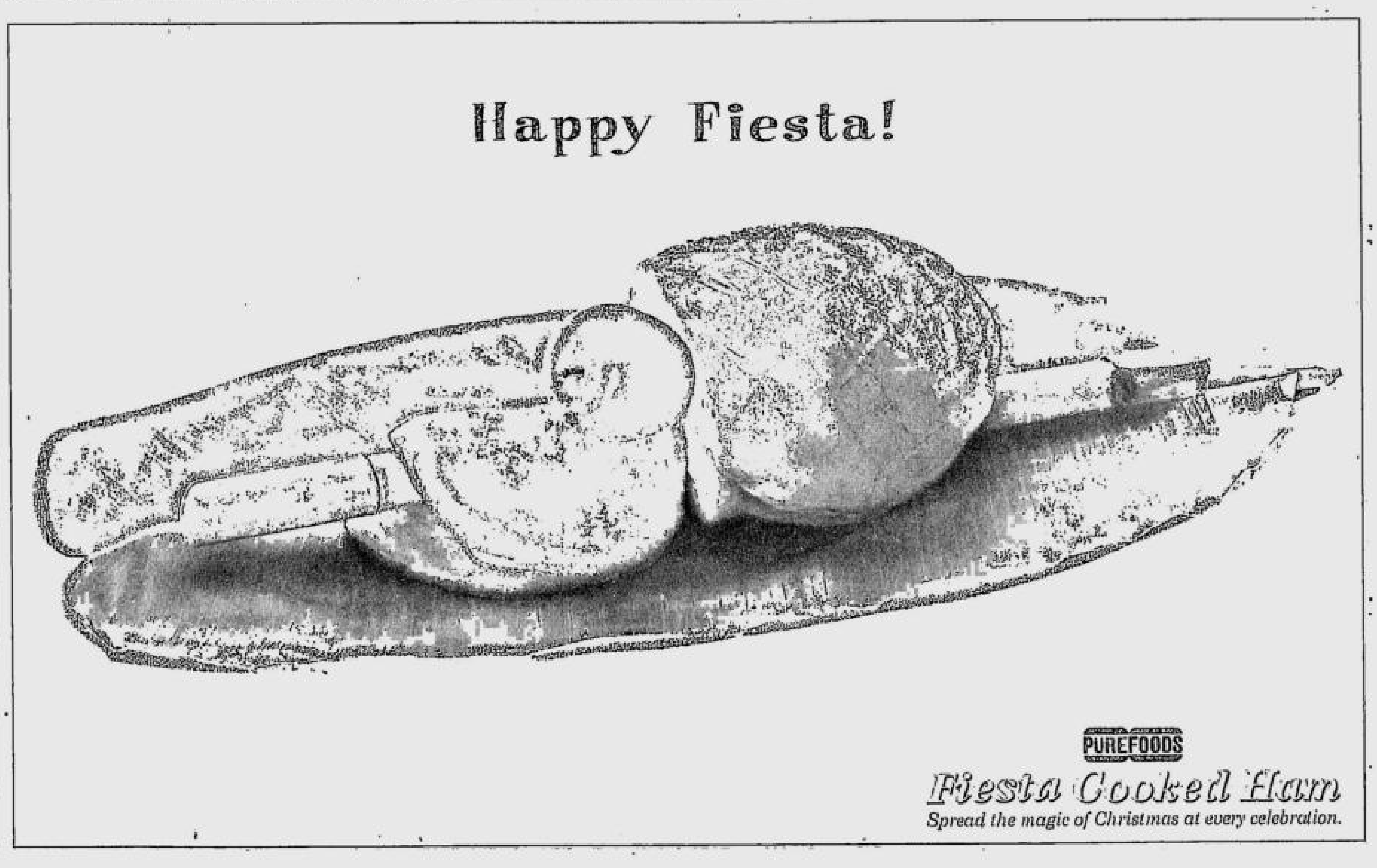
LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL DISH FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION?
PINOYS CELEBRATE WITH FIESTA HAM

Whenever there's a big *handaan*, lechon immediately comes to mind. But when times are hard, many housewives are forced to forgo this crowd pleaser and content themselves with more regular fare. Or sometimes, the gathering isn't big enough to justify the cost of a lechon. That leaves the question of what dish becomes the centerpiece of the party table. The new alternative? Purefoods Fiesta Ham. For a few hundred pesos, you can serve an attractive, delicious dish that goes well with many other recipes. And because it's the traditional star of the Noche Buena feast, everyone loves the taste of Fiesta Ham.

But ham in August? Not something we usually think of. Counters Helene Z. Pontejos of the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, "Why not? When people serve Fiesta Ham during other special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries or despedidas, they get really excited. It's really a pleasant surprise."

But is there any other way to serve Fiesta Ham aside from the usual baked whole ham? You can glaze the ham and put it in a big silver platter. Surround this with fresh fruits e.g. grapes and orange slices. Then you can make your buffet table more interesting by carving or slicing the ham on the spot, a style that is a take off from elegant hotel or restaurant buffets.

It's unexpected, it's not traditional. But when you're looking for an alternative to lechon that's just as festive and welcome, maybe Purefoods Fiesta Ham is just the answer.



THU
JUL
ILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE

Cooks for hire

THE JOYFUL COOK

Felice Prudente Sta. Maria

THE JOYFUL Cook had been simmering an ox tongue in water with carrot, onion, and parsley for almost two hours to tenderize it. She was going to make Braised Tongue following a recipe by Pacita Zamora de Mascunana, who was known for her menus that allowed homemakers to show off their abilities in international cuisine. TJC was going to recreate Menu No. 21 dated September 13, 1932 that also included Vegetable Bouillon Soup, Tomato Jelly Salad with Boiled Salad Dressing, and Snowballs—a steamed dessert served with fruit whether fresh, in syrup, or turned into marmalade.

"You could have softened the tongue in a bath of strong sugarcane vinegar and gin sea-

COOKS/ D4

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

KOREAN KIMCHI

Learn how to prepare basic Kimchi, the traditionally fermented vegetable food from the country known as The Land of the Morning Calm. Get fresh, first hand knowledge under our skilled cooking teachers. So enroll now and check out the schedules below.

Kimchi: Aug. 2 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Basic Kimchis: Oi Kimchi (cucumber), Katugi (radish), Bietu (Chinese cabbage); Kimchi Jun (pancake), Kimchi Chige (Hotpot), Kimchi Bokum Bap (Fried Rice), Dakdoritang (Korean Chicken), Oyster Congee, Kim bab. P1,000

OTHER ONE-DAY SPECIALS:

Japanese Cooking: Aug 9 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi; assorted Sushi: Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California Maki and Nigiri. P800.

Pasta & Rice Meals: Aug. 9 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Lasagna with Seafood & Tomato Sauce, Ravioli with Spinach & Ricotta Cheese Tomato sauce, Cannelloni - rolled Pasta with Ground Meats with Béchamel Sauce; Tortellini-cardinal Hat Shape Pasta Filled with Mushroom & Beef Sauce, Risotto, Seafood Paella. P800.

Catering Dishes: Aug. 16 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Morcon, Galantina, Soy Chicken, Paella, Baked Macaroni, Roast Pork. Bonus: Buko-Pandan. P800.

Baking with Institutional Mixes: Aug. 16 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Assorted Brownies (Black Forest, Apple Chunk, Rocky Road); Pineapple Carrot Cake, Choco-Banana Loaf; Chocolate Muffins with Fudge Frosting, Hotdog on Stick; Butterscotch Squares and Chocolate Crinkles. P600.

Catering Seminar: Aug. 23 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Technical aspects of operations i.e. costing, portion control, quantification, last minute preparation strategies, hygiene, sanitation, food handling and storage. Menu planning to table set-up. Actual preparation of popular catering dishes (Salad, Fish and Seafood, Pork, Chicken, Beef and Dessert). P1,500 with free lunch.

Bakery & Bakeshop: Aug. 23 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes including costing, production batching with actual hands-on. P1,500.

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON FOR ADULTS. (Pre-registration required)

Cooking I (Basic). For Messmen, Stewards and Beginners: Aug. 5-8 or 19-22 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Basic food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables, pasta, meats and poultry dishes; Techniques of de-boning chicken and fish; Basic garnishing. Actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes. P2,500.

Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking) For Career Cooks: Aug. 5-8 or 19-22 (T-F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Coverage: Food hygiene & sanitation, Standard techniques of preparing basic stocks, soups and sauces applicable to 1001 recipes; salads and dressing; main dishes; potato cookery; pasta and rice; techniques of de-boning and filleting fish and chicken; use of herbs and spices to cooking; basic garnish for plate and platter presentation. Free lunch. P3,000.

Cake Decorating (Basic): Aug. 9 & 16 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lecture-workshop on fundamentals of cake decorating; coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching and motif. Free decorating tips. P2,000.

Baking I (Basic): Aug. 13-15 or 27-29 (W-F) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. P2,000

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108, or e-mail us at *mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph*

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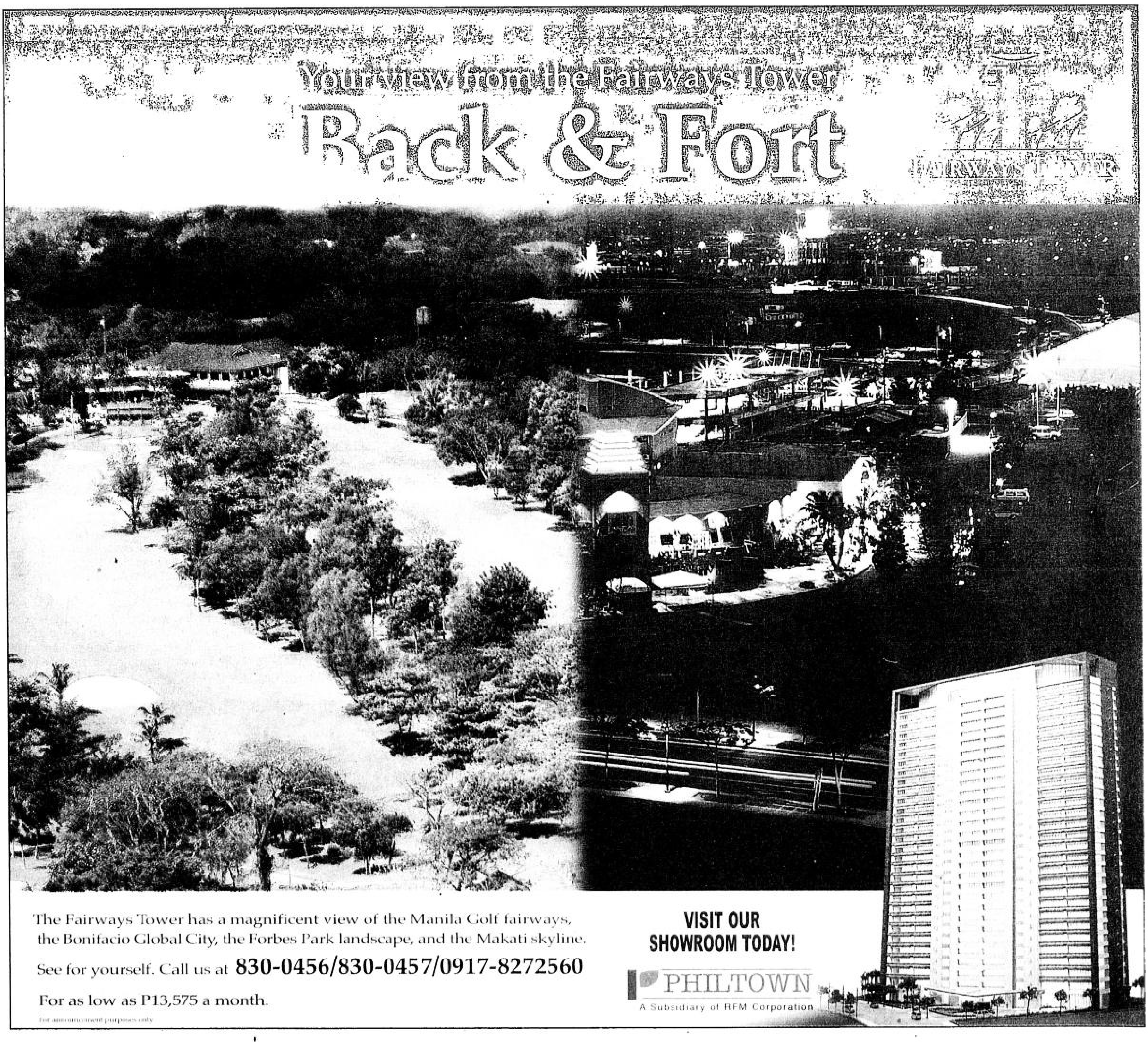

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Tempura without tears

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

JAPANESE food is getting to be popular again. There are a lot of Japanese restaurants around town to attest to this.

Here we have Japanese fried rice, a complete meal in itself. We are presenting it with tempura and teriyaki, two popular Japanese recipes that can be easily duplicated in a home kitchen. Dessert can be something store-bought like *buko* sherbet or green tea ice cream to cleanse the palate. For those with bigger budgets, throw in an order or two of sushi from a reputable sushi store as an appropriate first course.

Reward your family with a home-cooked Japanese dinner to cap a hectic week—from my kitchen to yours.

Japanese Fried Rice

¼ c garlic flavored margarine
1 tbsp minced garlic
½ c chopped onions
½ c chopped celery stalk
½ c minced carrots
½ c ground beef
3 c cooked rice
¼ c chopped spring onions
1 whole egg, beaten
2 tbsp soy sauce
finely ground black pepper to taste

Melt the margarine in a large frying pan. Add the garlic, the onions, the celery and the carrots. Sauté until the onions become limp. Add the ground beef and continue to sauté until the beef changes color.

Pour in the rice and the spring onions. Mix well until everything is well distributed. Add the beaten egg and the soy sauce. Season with black pepper to taste and stir continuously until most of the liquid has been absorbed.

Assorted Tempura

Fish fillet (*lapu-lapu*, *labahita* or *asohos*), sliced
spinach leaves, washed
eggplant, sliced diagonally
fresh mushrooms (shiitake or oyster), halved

Tempura Batter:
1 c sifted all-purpose flour
1 whole egg
2/3 c cold water
¼ tsp fine salt
1/8 tsp baking powder
Japanese breadcrumbs (*panko*)
oil for frying

Dipping Sauce:
½ c water
2 tbsp soy sauce
2 tbsp white sugar
½ pc beef broth cube
1 tsp ginger juice
3 tbsp grated and squeezed radish

Combine the ingredients for the tempura batter. Mix well with a wire whip until smooth. Heat a generous amount of oil in a frying pan. Working with a piece at a time, dip the fish/vegetable in the batter and quickly roll in breadcrumbs. Deep fry until light golden brown. Drain using paper towels. Set aside.

To prepare the sauce, combine the ingredients and allow to boil. Transfer to a container and serve separately.

Chicken Teriyaki

1 tbsp minced garlic
1/3 c white sugar
1 tbsp ginger juice
¼ c soy sauce
2 tbsp rice wine
1 c water
½ kg chicken thigh fillet
1 tbsp cornstarch dispersed in 1 tbsp water
1 tbsp *calamansi* juice
chopped spring onions
sesame seeds

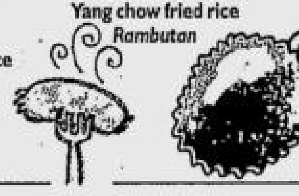
In a saucepan or stockpot combine the following ingredients—garlic, sugar, ginger juice, soy sauce, rice wine and water. Place over medium heat and allow to boil.

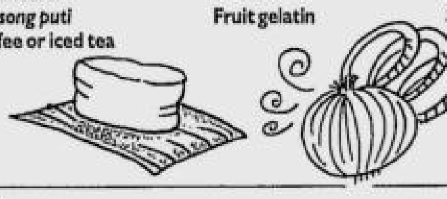
Add the chicken, allow to boil, and then simmer until tender.

Combine the cornstarch together with the water and the *calamansi* juice in a small bowl. Pour into the pot and stir continuously until the sauce thickens. Turn off the heat and transfer to a serving platter. Top with spring onions and sesame seeds.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria gives cooking, baking and cake decorating lessons at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City. For inquiries, call 721-7735.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Ham and cheese omelet Tasty bread Butter and guava jelly Hot coffee or chocolate Papaya with *calamansi*	Chicken *tinola* *Rellenong talong* Rice Mango ala mode	Instant ham and corn soup Breaded porkchop *Guisadong chicharo* Rice *Leche flan*
TUESDAY	Corned beef Rice Hot coffee, chocolate or iced tea	Fried fish with sweet and sour sauce Vegetable *lumpia* Canned fruit cocktail with ice	Spaghetti with meat sauce Fried chicken popcorn Banana split
WEDNESDAY	Cereal and milk *Pandesal* Butter, coco jam, fruit jam Cheddar cheese Vienna sausage Hot coffee or fruit juice	Steamed chicken with mushrooms and Chinese sausage Yang chow fried rice *Rambutan*	*Paksiw na pata* *Adobong kangkong* Salted egg and tomatoes Rice Chilled wedges of *guyabano*
THURSDAY	*Champorado* Beef *tapa* *Pandesal* *Kesong puti* Hot coffee or iced tea	*Pesang bangus* bellies Canned *sisig* Rice Fruit gelatin	*Pancit canton* Pork steak with onion rings *Saba con hielo*
FRIDAY	Fried egg *Longganiza* Rice Hot coffee or chocolate Papaya with *calamansi*	Chicken *adobo* with pineapple chunks Rice *Nata de coco*	Pot roast Potato salad Boiled corn Blueberry cheesecake
SATURDAY	*Taho* Assorted store bought dimsum Hot or iced tea	Cucumber salad *Rellenong bangus* Rice *Suman at mangga*	Japanese fried rice Assorted tempura Chicken teriyaki Buko sherbet
SUNDAY	Gourmet tuyo Cheddar cheese Soft boiled eggs *Pandesal* Hot coffee or chocolate Assorted fresh fruits	Create your own salad *Halaan* soup Paella Chicken and pork barbecue Canonigo	Instant hot and sour soup Steamed fish Vegetable chopsuey Rice Almond jelly





ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

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SASHIMI power dinner at Genki

Good taste, good value

THE "GOOD" Japanese restaurant has opened at Sunshine Plaza Boulevard, corner Quezon Avenue and Scout Santiago in Quezon City.

Genki, which means good in Japanese, uses a giant aquarium with *koi* or fancy carp as its focal point.

Japanese meals served in trays provide good value for money. Small groups can opt for a private room while large ones (20 guests) can have two adjoining function rooms.

Diners going for simple but filling meals can order the *nabeyaki udon*, which is noodles with meat, prawn tempura, egg and vegetables. The beverage tofu olala is made especially for women who need phytoestrogens from soya.

BUSINESSMAN'S lunch

Good news for northbound motorists

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

AT LONG last, the reconstructed portion north of the Candaba viaduct, a good 12-kilometer stretch, will be open to motorists come September. The flood-prone area had been closed to traffic due to the construction of a five-meter elevated lane, forcing motorists to use the counterflow portion on the south lane.

Readers have been complaining about the hassles of driving through the flood-prone segment from San Simon to San Fernando, Pampanga. When there is a typhoon, it can take more than five hours to navigate the 10-15 kilometer stretch. Every time it rained heavily, water would rise, carrying trash and debris from overflowing creeks to the road.

PDI reader Rizalino S. San Juan (rssanjuan@hotmail) wrote, "When it flooded, motorists couldn't tell which was the highway and which was the swamp."

The opening of the rehabilitated segment of the highway was announced by Robbie N. Tañada, manager for external relations and marketing of the Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNLTC), the company that undertakes the rehabilitation of the 84-kilometer North Luzon Expressway (NLEX).

"The project will be finished in year 2005. It will be a world-class expressway where motorists can travel faster, safer and more comfortably," Tañada assured the public.

He added, "Expect wider lanes, stricter monitoring of roadways, visible advisories, emergency call booths (theft-free phones, we hope), and more efficient service." By the way, the MNLTC is publishing "On The Road," a fortnightly newsletter for northbound motorists. For more information, call Tañada at 638-1123 and 0919-6036914.

Problems with new car

Mr. and Ms Antonio Afable wrote about their one-year-old vehicle that had been in and out of the repair shop. "We're fed up with the vehicle and want it replaced. However, our request is not getting any response from the car dealer. Since we bought the car, we've had it serviced repeatedly for excessive smoke emission, high fuel consumption, rampant breakdown of its muffler, and trouble in the injection pump. It also failed the emission test last February."

The bank that financed Afable's car loan wrote a formal letter requesting the car company to assist their clients. It goes without saying that the bank cannot afford to lose the trust of its clients. It markets and sells auto loans, and adverse feedback from clients is not good for business.

(We discussed the problem of the Afables with the manager of the company that repairs the vehicle. The Afables were advised to file their formal request for replacement at the car company in Laguna. It might speed up matters if the Afables report their plight to officials at the head office of the car company in Japan. They can get the company address on the Internet. Another option is to get advice from the consumer welfare department of the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection. Call officer-in-charge Yolly Marquina at tel. no. 890-4932/896-5740.)

Parking hassle

Here's one more complaint about the late-hour rush to get out of the Greenbelt Mall parking decks. M. Mirabueno (binkyrm@yahoo.com) said she and her friends spent over one hour waiting to drive down from the roof deck parking pool to the ground floor exit. There was only one clerk manning the exit-counter and no guard directing traffic.

"It was bedlam with car drivers trying to edge out each other to get to the exit. Naturally, those on the roof deck were stuck and could only get out when there were no more cars on the lower decks. We waited from 11:08 p.m. and reached the exit at 12:15 a.m. The clerk at the counter told us that the mad rush happened Friday and Saturday nights.

"We paid the parking fee, and as loyal customers of the mall, we deserve efficient service," Mirabueno said.

On utility companies

Felicito Q. Abiva (feltawp@info.com.ph) shares his experience to prove that Meralco bills its customers like a highway robber. He said, "Can you just imagine? Actual consumption (cost) P7,629.30 but the other charges amounted to P8,022.95!

Marnie S. Estacio: "Maynilad customers in Dama de Noche and Rose Streets, Payatas are perennially sleepless waiting for our water ration. We have been customers of Maynilad for five years. Service on the first year was satisfactory even if our water ration came only between 4-9 p.m. The following years, water flowed from the pipes at midnight, then at 1 a.m. and, early this year, at around 4 a.m. or 5 a.m. Last month, we had no water for one week. This month, we only had a one-hour supply and, finally, no water at all.

"Every time I complained to Maynilad, the reasons I got were: low water pressure, high ground elevation, and increasing number of customers. Why doesn't Maynilad increase the water pressure in our area, so we can get our fair share?"

Kudos

Marylin Lauron (Leonardo's Foodarama, Blumentritt, San Juan) is grateful to the prompt response of Sonia S. Domingo, officer-in-charge of the Social Security System-San Juan branch. "I wrote a letter requesting SSS to correct the error in my membership account number. My letter, however, was misplaced. When I called the attention of OIC Domingo, she promptly made the necessary correction," Lauron wrote.

MNLTC completes rehabilitation of flood-prone portion of North Expressway

Mom shares weighty facts on Pediasure

Pink lips, sun-kissed cheeks and an active lifestyle not to mention a hearty appetite are every mother's gauge of their children's good health. However, every mother knows too that the numbers on their pediatrician's weighing scale may yet tell a different story.

Dr. Liza Francisco, an OB-GYN, and a mother of two, had to follow both her instinct as a mom and as a woman of medicine when faced with her daughters' weight concerns.

Kate and Cheenie

"My daughter Kate, now 4 1/2 years old is really hyperactive. When she was 6 months old, she developed constipation from drinking her formula milk. That and her active state; her weight was not improving."

"On the other hand, my youngest daughter Cheenie, who's 3 years old, was a diagnosed case of ventricular septal defect." Also called VSD, it is a condition wherein a baby is found to have a hole between the right and left ventricle of the heart. *"Again, it was at 6 months that it became more apparent that she was not gaining the ideal weight for her age"*, Dr. Francisco explains.

The Doctor is In... the house!

Being a Mom, these turn of events were definitely a cause of worry. But then, Dr. Francisco knew what needed to be done.

"Since I'm a doctor, upon seeing my daughters' growth patterns, I opted to shift them to high caloric milk." She was introduced to no less than Pediasure by her sisters, whose children were drinking Pediasure for some time.

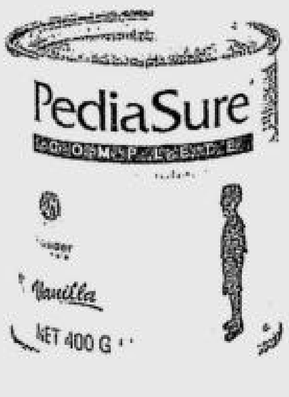
Pediasure is a complete, balanced nutritional supplement specially formulated for the growing years of children. Pediasure is clinically-proven to provide the child's body with essential nutrients for growth as well as immunity that can reduce sick days.

Pediasure has the highest caloric density at 30 kcal per fluid ounce. This means Pediasure is packed with the calories that result to a weight gain achieved in a shorter period of time compared to other nutritional elements.

Gaining from Pediasure

Dr. Francisco points out that her daughters loved the taste of Pediasure. In fact, Kate was drinking 2 to 3 glasses of Pediasure a day while Cheenie would have 3 to 4 glasses a day. The weight gain was achieved in about 2 to 3 months and according to Dr. Fransisco, family and friends couldn't help but notice.

Dr. Francisco was happy that Pediasure gave her the results she wanted for her daughters. The benefit was undeniably clear. "At least even if they don't eat lots of solids, they are on Pediasure! The other thing is, I have observed that they don't get sick often" she volunteers to say.



Now, Dr. Francisco admits to even recommending Pediasure to her friends and patients. Ask your pediatrician about Pediasure today. Or call Pediasure's Nutri hotline **746-0669** Monday to Friday for free nutritional advice.

PediaSure
For catch-up growth

ABBOTT LABORATORIES, PHILS.

First-ever dinnerware design contest

MELAWARES, the well-known dinnerware brand, is sponsoring the country's first-ever design-a-dinnerware contest called "Spatter Platter."

The contest period runs until Aug. 15. Joining is easy. Just grab a 10" Melawares plate Code #109 and create whatever design you want.

Melawares plates are available in all leading department stores such as Shoemart, Ever Gotesco, Isetann, and Sta. Lucia.

Designs may be painted directly or mounted on the plate using any medium—oil, acrylic, watercolor, computer graphics—whatever suits your fancy.

Spatter Platter is open to all professional and non-professional artists 16 years of age and above.

To submit entries, write down your name, address, contact number and signature on a piece of paper and stick it on to the back of your entry.

Then send the entry to Melawares Manufacturing Corp., 24th Flr., Corporate Center, 139 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, or at 8 University Avenue Ext., Malabon, Metro Manila.

Deadline for submission of entries is on Aug. 15. You may send in as many entries as you desire. Call 3612269, e-mail sales@melawares.com, or check out www.melawares.com.

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Special Set Menu for 12
- Assorted Cold Cuts
- Hot Chicken and Prawn Salad
- Shredded Fishlip Soup
- Patatim
- Steamed Lapu-Lapu
- Roasted Duck
- Steamed Crabs
- Yang Chow Fried Rice
- Butchi
- Mango Sago

Before: P 8,300 Now: 5,400
Good for 6 Persons P 2,800

- Suckling Pig Cold Cuts
- Steamed Prawns with Garlic
- Double Luck S. Fin Soup
- Sliced Local Abalone with BK Mushroom
- Peking Duck 2 Ways
- Steamed Lapu Lapu
- Minced Duck with Lettuce
- Steamed Crab
- Yang Chow Fried Rice
- Butchi
- Mango Sago

Before: P 11,000 Now: 7,380
Good for 6 Persons P 3,790

Set Menu for 6
GOOD for LUNCH only
- Peking Duck 2 Ways (½)
- Fish Lip Soup
- Baked Prawns
- Steamed Lapu-Lapu
- Abalone Mushroom w/ Bamboo Fungus
- Minced Duck w/ Lettuce
- Fried Stuffed Beancurd
- Garlic Fried Rice
- Mango Sago/Buchi

Before P3,800 Now: P 1,980

50% PRICE OFF
Lunch & Dinner
1 Whole Peking Duck
Before P 1,550
2 Ways: (1st Way) Skinning (2nd Way) Fried Duck Bones
Offer good while supply last

Per DTI NCR Permit No. A1-388 Series 2003

DAILY SEAFOOD SPECIAL PROMO
MON IMPORTED FISH FILLET
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Steamed or Fried
Before P 1,200/kl NOW: P600/kl
THU LIVE CRABS
Fried w/ Salt & Pepper or Steamed
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FRI BIG PRAWNS
Baked w/ superior sauce or Steamed w/ Garlic (min of 4 pcs.)
Before P 120/pc NOW: P60/pc
SAT LIVE LOBSTER
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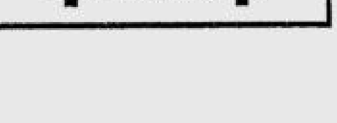
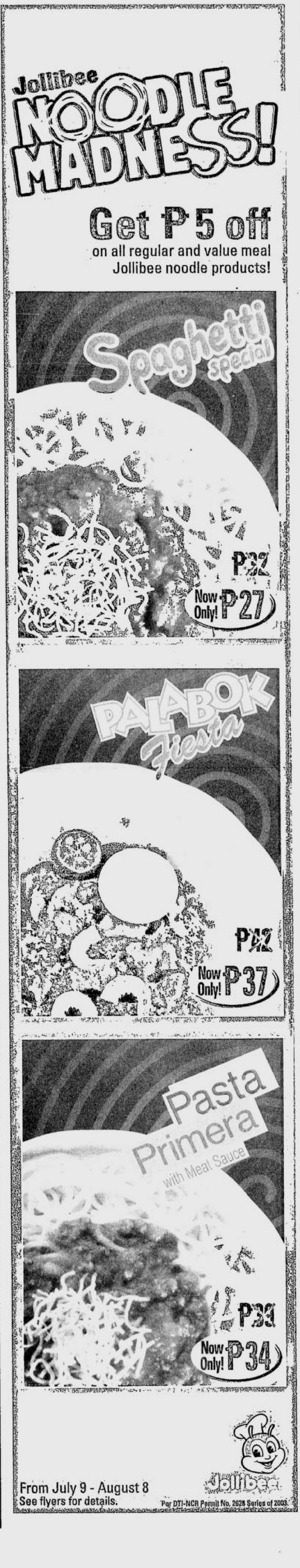
GOOD FOR LUNCH ONLY
Effective July 1
Lunch Time: Also serve Dimsum & Noodle Soup

This promo is available only at Greenbelt 2





Get P 5 off on all regular and value meal Jollibee noodle products!

From July 9 - August 8
See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2628 Series of 2003

Cooks for hire

From page D1

soned with bay leaf, onion and peppercorn," suggested St. Sandok, the cooking spoon she had inherited from her Grandma Uning.

"That sounds like the recipe of Gene R. Gonzalez in his book 'Cocina Sulipena: Culinary Gems from Old Pampanga (Bookmark, 1993),'" she replied. "He writes about Emilio Gonzalez, one of the most famous cooks and caterers during the late 1800s."

A man's realm

"According to the 1902 census needed in order to hold elections for representatives to the 1907 Philippine Assembly, cooks made up the eighth largest profession," TJC remembered. "Whereas American women in domestic and personal services outnumbered men two to one in the USA, about 70 percent of Filipina workers were employed in manufacturing: cigar rolling, textile weaving, embroidery.

"Women were not encouraged to leave home to find work like men," noted TJC. "That's why 58 percent of all hired cooks in the Philippines were men, according to the survey. Only in Ilocos region did the survey register more women cooks than men, 52 percent and 48 percent, respectively.

"Men from Camarines were favored as cooks in Manila, just as Ilocanos and Cagayanos were preferred as carriage drivers. But among landed gentry and well-heeled entrepreneurs, the cooks of Pampanga and Bulacan had earned a reputation for preparing the finest fare. Aside from Emilio Gonzalez of Sulipan—who prepared the famous September 29, 1898 ratification lunch for the congressional representatives assembled at Malolos, Bulacan and for dinners at Club Filipino— there were Honofre Mallari and Gil Mozas," TJC noted.

"Mallari arrived at a client's home by carriage sometimes provided as a courtesy by the employer. He came with his knives, copper *tacho* pans for making sweets, enormous metal *kawa* (vats) and two or three assistants, usually male. For three days of work, he received P50, from which he defrayed the salaries of his assistants. Being relatives, some assistants accepted mere tips and considered it honor enough to be deemed an understudy to such a talent," Sandok remembered.

"That was quite a sum, considering that according to one 1898 report the average cook's monthly salary was P15. By 1902 it had doubled. The highest monthly salary recorded by the Census was P40. It is said that prestigious cooks like Gonzalez earned prime compensation including many unpublicized fringe benefits and status gifts.

Status larder

"No cook worth his salt would accept employment in a household that could not provide ingredients for status dishes.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

In 1898 a Chinese cook in Manila's suburbs could prepare a six-course dinner for four with only 40 centavos

After all, his reputation was at stake. Fashionable food was Spanish," Sandok noted, "so there had to be enough capers, chickpeas, red peppers, olive oil, olives, Spanish sausages, saffron and wine to work with.

"Cooks also prided themselves with working for families well known as gourmets. Not all homes with means knew the refinements of fine dining. Gentility then required that patriarchs and matriarchs know how to spot a good cook. Girls were sent off to urban schools where Spanish nuns guided them not only in spiritual exercises but the requisites of a finishing school like painting, European languages, handwriting with a flourish, needlework and familiarity with European food—even if they would never actually work in a hot, sooty kitchen," Sandok explained.

"I bet having a cook who knew how to budget was a blessing, especially if they were expected to show off their capabilities at upper-class socials. I remember reading that in 1898 a Chinese cook in Manila's suburbs could prepare a six-course dinner for four with only 40 centavos. That would purchase a whole chicken, a meat roast, vegetables, salad, dessert, fruit and coffee. Five centavos more meant more peas in the soup and orchids on the table," said TJC.

"If in 1904 one Iloilo cook received P1.50 daily to cover ingredients for lunch and dinner, during banquets a host spent from P8 to P10 per guest," Sandok noted.

Chinese teamwork

"The Chinese immigrant cooks acquired status among American expatriates during the early 1900s. They arrived in the morning to prepare breakfast for the family, then went off to market. Chinese cooks did not market singly. They always met at a certain spot and told one or two experienced buyers among them what their needs were. Since they bought by volume they got good prices and were known to pass on the savings to their employers. They likewise gave the best purchases to whoever among them had a special affair for the day," the cooking spoon said.

"When Helen Herron hired a Chinese cook, the other expatriate wives followed suit," he added. She was the wife of William Howard Taft, the first American civil governor-general in the Philippines and later US president.

"Well, native or not, having a cook one can trust is a blessing.. But still I find my greatest satisfaction in preparing a meal myself for those I love," said TJC, who began draining the tongue that had finally become as tender as butter.

Next: Vangie's American Pig

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25th Anniversary CarWorld, Inc.

CarWorld, Inc.
MITSUBISHI MOTORS

MESSAGES

MY warmest felicitations to the management and employees of Carworld, Inc. on the occasion of your 25th Anniversary.

This event reinforces the positive signals about the economy, in line with our thrust to create a vibrant business environment. May you continue to contribute to our goal of generating employment and a better life for our people through enhanced economic activity and a dynamic business climate.

In working for the growth of the automotive industry, I hope that you will be motivated by a commitment to our common goal of conquering poverty and building a strong and progressing republic.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

OUR warmest greetings to the management and staff of Carworld, Inc. on its 25th Anniversary Celebration on July 31 at the Laus Group Corporate Center in San Fernando, Pampanga.

It is heartening to note that Carworld, Inc., the flagship firm at the Laus Group of Companies, has successfully explored the business potentials in the growth area of Central Luzon for the last 25 years and provided corporate leadership and innovation in customer excellence in the region. This is a shining testimony on the viability and vibrancy of countryside commerce.

We are indeed pleased that a local company has emerged to be one of the biggest provincial Mitsubishi dealership in Asia. This is a strong manifestation of the Filipino's competitive nature, unwavering determination and forward-looking attitude which are essential factors in propelling us to global excellence.

We are confident that Carworld, Inc. will continue to pursue its commitment to consistently provide its clientele with the highest standards of quality, efficiency and reliability in its products and services. Furthermore, we count on the company to actively support government efforts in enhancing the general welfare and standard of living of the community as it has previously done during the devastating period of lahar that has besieged the region.

To Carworld, our sincere congratulations and best wishes for continuing growth and prosperity.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

ON this occasion, I join the men and women of Carworld, Inc. as they observe their 25 anniversary today.

Special events such as your silver anniversary, indeed, a cause for celebration. This milestone in the company's corporate life attests to Carworld's reliability and quality service.

I, therefore, congratulate Levy P. Laus, chair and CEO of the Laus Group of Companies for steering Carworld to new heights over the past years. May you and your people continue to display the same enthusiasm, dedication and hardwork to sustain the organization's reputation as a highly esteemed distributor of Mitsubishi vehicles.

Mabuhay kayong lahat.

MANUEL M. LAPID
Governor
Province of Pampanga

LET me kindly extend my warm congratulations to the hardworking men and women of Carworld Philippines as you celebrate 25 years of performing a job well done.

There are many reasons why Carworld is one of the country's leading car dealers. But for now, may I focus on one and that reason is all about hard work.

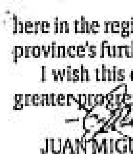
In a world that is obsessed with shortcuts and easy profit, Carworld has maintained its steady investment on honest hard work. The exemplary success of this business institution was founded and continually sustained on the hard and honest labor of everyone involved. From the chair of the board to the newest account executive, it is quite clear that everybody tows the line.

But I also cannot help but mention one another reason for the success story, and that is the foresight of your leading light and founder, Levy Laus. In matters of business and administration, very few can equal the foresight of Caroworld's main man.

Hard work and forpsight - two big reasons that explain the running plot of a big success story.

I wish all of you in Carworld the best of luck and may you inspire us with bigger success stories in the future.

OSCAR S. RODRIGUEZ
Representative
Third District of Pampanga



I CONVEY my warmest felicitations to Carworld, Inc. on the celebration of their 25th year anniversary.

What is paramount to our country and region is to carry our province to the next plateau of development, that of economic steadiness and progress. I therefore commend the people of Carworld, Inc. who have been models of harmonious business relations and who have made significant contributions in the economic development here in the region of Pampanga. I hope that you will continue to be partners in both our province's further development.

I wish this event every success and urge Carworld, Inc. to help our nation towards greater progress, prosperity and stability.

JUAN MIGUEL M. ARROYO

A [illegible] that conquered the countryside—and beyond

'I believe in the potential of the countryside. We have shown to the people here that we can deliver the same kind of world class service, that we have the skill and competitiveness of any successful business in the Metropolis or elsewhere'—Levy Laus

By Raquel P. Gomez

WITH its bright new look and expanded showroom space, Carworld, Inc. in San Fernando City, Pampanga is an eye stopper for motorists cruising the San Fernando-Olongapo (GSO) highway.

One can't help but take a peek into the elegant display of gorgeous Lancer sedans, Adventure AUVs, and Strada pickups inside the glass-paneled showroom.

Carworld's impressive stature, however, rests not only in its eye-catching showroom, but also in its tremendous economic—even historic import-to its home city and province.

Since it was established along the GSO road, Carworld has helped in changing the landscape of the area into that of a robust business district. That geographic expanse where Carworld rises eminently is the busiest intersection in the North when it comes to the number of establishments and companies operating there.

In an area of 13,000 square meters that covers a corporate headquarters, showroom and a service center, Carworld runs and operates one of the most successful and prestige-laden Mitsubishi cars dealerships in the country.

A fruitful partnership

For Levy Laus, chairman and CEO of the Laus Group of Companies (LGC), the business group that eventually emerged from Carworld's business growth and corporate reputation, partnership is part of its success formula.

"Our partnership with Mitsubishi Motors has been very fruitful," he said.

"Mitsubishi Motors has been very supportive of us and we're happy with its products, which are excellent products. The partnership has always been mutually beneficial. As Mitsubishi grows, we also grow," said Laus.

Carworld, Inc. started its operations on July 25, 1978. It initially took off as an allied dealer selling different brands available in the market. In 1985, Carworld partnered with the then Philippine Automotive Manufacturing Corp., now Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC), and thus it was awarded the franchise to sell Mitsubishi cars in Central Luzon.

From a humble beginning, Carworld has grown to become the biggest provincial dealer of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines today. Apart from its corporate home and its biggest facility in San Fernando City, Carworld also has branches in Malolos and Marilao in Bulacan, Tarlac City and Olongapo City.

With a total asset of close to P500 million, it consistently ranked in the list of the country's top 500 corporations. It has a market share of 30 percent in Central Luzon—and growing.

For a countryside business, Carworld is a "phenomenal" success. The success of the company paved the way for the establishment of 11 new companies that complemented the core business of car dealership—all under the LausGroup, which serves as a dominant and respected frontrunner in countryside business development and growth in Central Luzon.

"You can just imagine how big the LausGroup is now," said Laus, referring to the 800-plus strong employees under the business group's wing and the opportunities it has spawned in the area.

The sign of goodwill

Laus was having a successful career as a commercial bank manager before he went into the car business 25 years ago. He was, in fact, due for promotion and transfer to Manila. But the idea of staying with his new family in his San Fernando hometown was more of a priority to him than moving up in the banking ladder.

That's when he decided to take a new career path: automotive business.

At the time, his parents owned a popular tailoring and haberdashery store called Laus Men's World Tailoring and Haberdashery and a dry goods store in a public market in San Fernando. The term "Carworld" was, therefore, essentially a borrowed name from the Laus family's tailoring business.

"Laus Mensworld was a first-class store and had legions of customers not only from San Fernando but from other towns. When I was looking for a term for the new company, I wanted to get some goodwill generated by our store, that's why I called the dealership Carworld," said Laus.

"To me and my family, automotive was a complete stranger. We were into tailoring and dry goods selling. Our basic knowledge of cars then would be like anybody else's—we were fond of cars," said Laus.

There were only five employees when Laus started Carworld. Given the size and number, Laus was the "sales and general manager, accountant, salesman, and administrator all rolled into one." Today, Carworld has 215 employees in five dealerships in four provinces in Central Luzon.

Swimming against the tide

Yet, when Carworld was launched in 1978, it wasn't even a good year for the car industry. It was according to Laus, a crisis period. He described the early years of Carworld's operation as "swimming against the tide." Carworld was initially selling cars as an allied dealer; it got its products from franchised dealers.

"With a limited (car) market, there were already competitors," said Laus. "To a certain point, we were disadvantaged because we were just a sub dealer. What helped us was our being a native of San Fernando and the family's other ventures provided us with some leads to prospective car buyers. That was our good head start."

Laus said that it was a combination of his experiences—basic knowledge of entrepreneurship, formal education, and an eight-year stay with the bank—that somehow helped him "grow" the company and establish a market for Mitsubishi cars in the North.

In the 1980s a "boom" was experienced by the company and soon began expanding and opening other Carworld in other areas.

However, with success

CARWORLD/ E2

CARWORLD top brass, (from left) Epifacio I. Simbulan, EVP-Comptroller, Frank de Jesus, President; Levy P. Lans, Chair and CEO; and Romeo M. Sanchez, First Vice President, sales

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Car world . . .

From page E1

came also struggles. Carworld, being in the part of Luzon affected by natural calamities and economic crises, also had to go through the critical period.

Filling out the need

"We have gone through crisis after crisis," said Laus, referring to the Mount Pinatubo explosion and the yearly flooding and lahar avalanche that affected Pampanga. But we took these as challenges."

The Carworld office in San Fernando, Pampanga, even became the war room of sorts for government officials and local leaders at the height of the Pinatubo devastation in the early '90s, to map out strategies for lahar-related problems. And even when other business started to fold up and leave, Carworld opted to stay and even expand and rebuild facilities.

"People had wondered why during those crisis period, we were actually building a new store, expanding or investing. But when investors shy away, they actually give the business to you. They get out and you are there so why not take advantage of the vacuum. Fill out the need."

Carworld's growth and success are attributed to its consistent focus on a "personalized" type of service, geared ultimately towards customer satisfaction, a business mantra and philosophy that people at Carworld— and the Laus Group, for that matter—have imbibed as best corporate practice. Laus, in his usual self-effacing manner, credited this customer orientation to his banking background.

"We have excellent sales people and good facilities that translate into customers being happy when they do business with us. When they buy a car, they are assured of an after sales service. We take good care of our customers and I think that's our strength," said Laus.

Premium on employees

"We're quite unique too," added Laus. "Many car dealerships would rely on salesmen to generate sales. In our case, we just have our house sales consultants and our customers are becoming 'repeat' or 'loyal' customers. And they do refer other customers to us."

The other side of Carworld's success lies in its people, who are all locals, the implementation of new systems and further improvement of existing facilities, according to Franco de Jesus, Carworld president. He said the company puts a "premium" on the personal development and training of people.

"For example, aside from the continuous training of our people, we are now in the process of completing an integrated computerized system to improve our efficiency towards customer satisfaction," he said. "We are really investing on these because we believe in the purpose of our organization."

Today Carworld is a healthy homegrown organization that contributes greatly to economic growth in Central Luzon. It's very much involved and active in the community, giving not only job opportunities but also providing civic and corporate contributions.

It has set up a foundation that sends local students to college and eventually hires them. It is among the top taxpayers in the country.

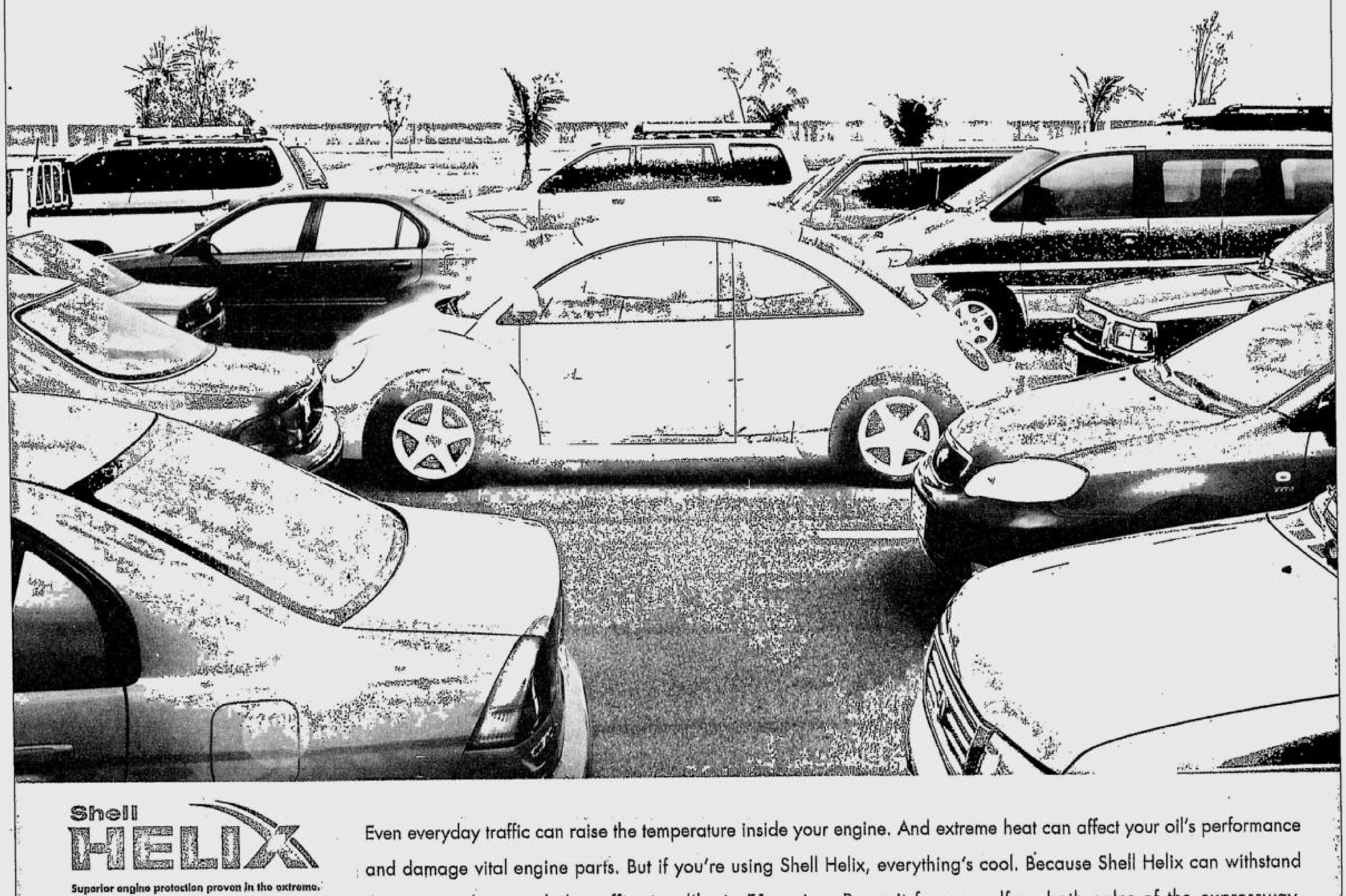
"I believe in the potential of the countryside," said Laus. "We have shown to the people here that we can deliver the same kind of service, that we have the skill and competitiveness of any successful business in the Metropolis or elsewhere."

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

CARWORLD, INC.
on your
25th Year
ANNIVERSARY

The ROMAC GROUP
of Companies

Be the coolest all the way from north to south.



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MESSAGES

I CONVEY my warmest congratulations to the officers and employees of Carworld, Inc. on its 25 anniversary.

Carworld's sustained achievements through the years exemplify unique corporate vision combined with corporate responsibility that encompass consumers, community and countryside development.

In the life of the City of San Fernando, Carworld has played vital roles especially in the community's battle against the Mount Pinatubo calamity and the capital town's eventual transition from a first-class municipality into a competitive component city.

Carworld is a class unto itself that is at par with any of the world's best in terms of quality and commitment to its clientele and its environment. This is obviously the secret behind its continued success through changing times, regardless of the emerging challenges or opportunities.

Given its outstanding and enviable record as a business organization, corporate citizen and an exponent of customer excellence, Carworld deserves not only to celebrate its 25 years of fruitful existence but more years of promising operations ahead.

Congratulations and mabuhay.

DR. REY B. AQUINO
City Mayor

AS we celebrate Carworld's 25 anniversary, I would like to share the joyous significance of the day with my fellow officers, employees and above all, loyal and valued customers, for making this milestone such as a glorious event for us.

We would not have made it this far, through long and invariably difficult times, without their immense hard work, sustained commitment and shared vision for the culture of excellence that Carworld has been known for since the beginning.

I wish also to make special mention of the unwavering support of and our fruitful relationship with our business partner and principal, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. that have served us in good stead through the years.

It is to their great credit that Carworld has made its presence felt not only as a world-class business outfit in the countryside but as a corporate citizen known for its consistent civic and community contribution and leadership at all times.

I look upon this anniversary as a silver lining for Carworld on the countryside horizon, where much of our hopes for our country's economic progress lies, as much as it is a potential golden opportunity for us to achieve more in the next 25 years ahead.

In both, I cannot overemphasized the roles and contributions of everyone, most especially our thousands of faithful and happy customers for the possibilities and rewards of achievements that Carworld has enjoyed and hopefully, will continue to be blessed with.

On this day, I cannot say thank you enough to all of them for such a wonderful and splendid feat as this silver anniversary for Carworld.

LEVY P LAUS
Chairman/CEO

It all started with a dream

"MAYBE I was just daydreaming, not really thinking big. But what I know is that I had to work hard," said Levy Laus about the thought that ran in his mind when he ventured into Carworld, Inc.

Actually, he wasn't only dreaming of running a car dealership. He was also thinking about getting into a garments factory or managing the family's small subdivision in a nearby town.

But selling cars, or the novelty of such a business, attracted him when he decided on a venture to go into after he bid his banking stint goodbye.

"It's good that I didn't know much about cars and not much about the economy then," said Laus who was only 27 years old when he put up Carworld in 1978.

"I was just banking on my basic knowledge and maybe natural talent, which I gained over the years by being a market boy."

Laus' parents owned and operated a general merchandise store inside the public market of San Fernando, Pampanga. Laus said he practically "grew up" in the public market.

"We, the children, had no choice. When my parents would go to the store, they would bring us with them. So the whole day, I would be in the store, from morning till evening when they closed the store."

As a boy, Laus helped in the store by selling dry goods. During Sundays and Christmas season, he would act as the cashier or assist in selling cloth.

He did enjoy the experience, and in fact, his basic knowledge of entrepreneurship came from his training in the market.

"Maybe having my background and experience in selling *tela* or other merchandise—I can also apply in selling cars," he said with a laugh.

Laus took up a degree in management from San Beda College. After college, he was hired by Commercial Bank and Trust Company in Pampanga. Eventually he rose from the ranks and was promoted to bank manager.

But a call to start his business beckoned. He said, "business has been in our blood. I was thinking about my future and at that point I had to make a critical decision."

Laus said he was undaunted when he started selling cars, which was totally alien to him.

"It was very difficult. You had to convince people. You had to wake up early to visit prospective customers in their respective homes in the morning to talk to them and convince them to buy, and that would sometimes take months before they finally decide."

Twenty-five years later, Laus' daydreaming and hard work has paid off.

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Locals find a home in CarWorld

By Marlet D. Salazar

WITH every success of a company, there are people who choose to stay in the sidelines even if they have contributed a lot. They are more than happy to see the company they are working for, grow bigger than when they were just starting. But they shouldn't be kept anonymous, and this is just the right time for them to shine. These employees have stuck with the company through thick and thin.

Her first and only job

SHE has seen the many faces of Carworld. From the company's humble beginnings to overcoming the odds during the economic crunch, Teresa Lubo has seen it all. And these were the most colorful parts of her career.

Carworld's rising reputation was already a buzz even during its early years. Talks of good management and comprehensive benefit packages invited many applicants, which included Lubo.

Lubo, 45, joined the modest number of employees in 1979 while she was still a banking and finance student at Assumption College in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Still in her teens, Lubo began as a receptionist for the company. "But because it was still a small company at that time, most of the employees resorted to multitasking so as not to disrupt the workflow," she said. Lubo became the secretary of Franco de Jesus, now the chief operating officer of the company. She handled the billing for job orders, collection, and the business letters for De Jesus.

Being a native of Pampanga, Lubo was not even discouraged that she had to attend night school so she could work during the day. "It was hard, yes, but it was also fun," she said. "The body may be tired but there was the ardent desire to finish school and maintain the job."

Lubo grew up with Carworld. The management's pursuit for excellence had included training and seminars for its employees. Lubo said these seminars immensely helped improve herself both on the personal and professional level. "There are many things that I didn't learn in school but I did learn in the seminars given by the company," she said.

Dealing with different types of people is one thing she truly enjoys. It makes her work a lot more, knowing that she has served the customers well. Lubo values even the smallest details such as telephone etiquette seminars, "because small things can lead to big things," she said.

Lubo appreciates the fact that their small office then has grown bigger and is now furnished with modern equipment. "I am very comfortable with our workplace not just because we have a very nice office," she said, "but also because we are like family here."

Moving to another company never entered her mind. Maybe because of the prestige and comfort the company brought to her and her family. "Maybe because I can see the perseverance of the management, that I foresee this company will reach the status it is enjoying now," she said.

Carworld is the only company Lubo worked for all her life. "It is because I found, in some measure, my world here," Lubo said.

Lubo, who now has two children, serves as an inspiration to newcomers who see themselves growing with the company. "When they give their best, it is not only the company that will benefit from that," Lubo said, "It is themselves that benefit the most because we can measure our self-worth from the things we accomplished."

There will be no other company that Lubo wishes to work for. It is with Carworld that she intends to dedicate her working life.

A simple hardworking mechanic

HE was like a prodigal son who found his way back to his family after a long journey to find his niche in the industry. Benjamin David moved from one company to another because he easily got bored not with the work, but with the working environment.

David first joined Carworld on Feb. 16, 1981. "I worked my way up to my present status as foreman," David said. David's rise from the ranks has been progressive, as he began as an ordinary mechanic. After a few years, he was promoted as an assistant supervisor who handled quick service. For a period of five years, he worked as a chief mechanic.

For some reason, David decided to work for other companies. He even got involved in trucking in Manila. Because of his longing for his hometown, David saw himself at the doorstep of Carworld for the second time.

Even if he was beginning to enjoy the work he was assigned to, he still thought he would never last with the company. "I don't know, there is always something missing," David said.

It was the family atmosphere and the friendly environment that encouraged David to stay on and never leave again.

What he enjoys most with the company is the constant upgrading of skills of the employees. "It is exciting to try new technologies," David said.

Even if Carworld is now considered a big company, David still feels his closeness with the managers. There are times when the employees get to talk to the higher-ups. "In that way, we are able to tell them firsthand what the problems are," he said.

David's work is customer-related and entails patience and hard work. Easy access to the bosses makes his work easier because he can easily air the problems, and is readily acted upon.

He recalled that there were very few employees at that time, and there was very easy access with the managers.

David's satisfaction knows no bounds. "I know that my long quest to find my niche found an end," he said, "but my work here is just beginning because every day is a new day."

LOCALS E6

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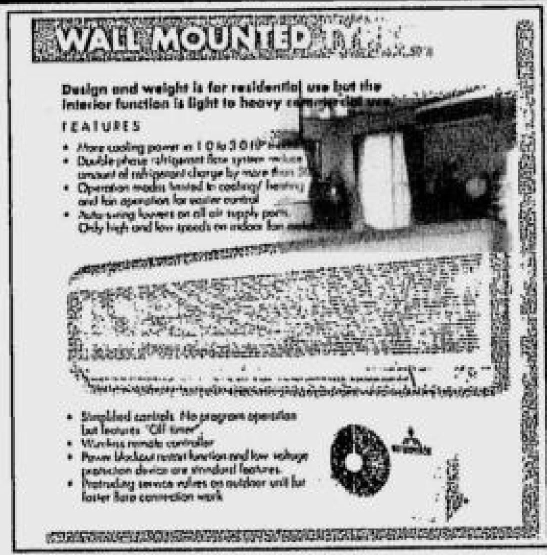

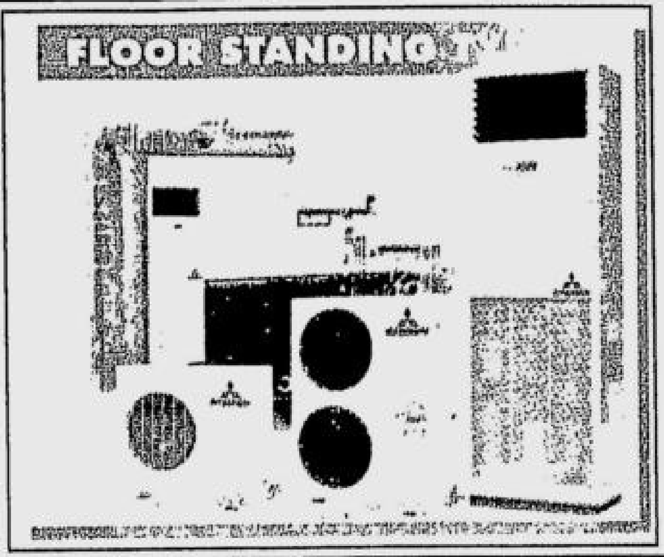

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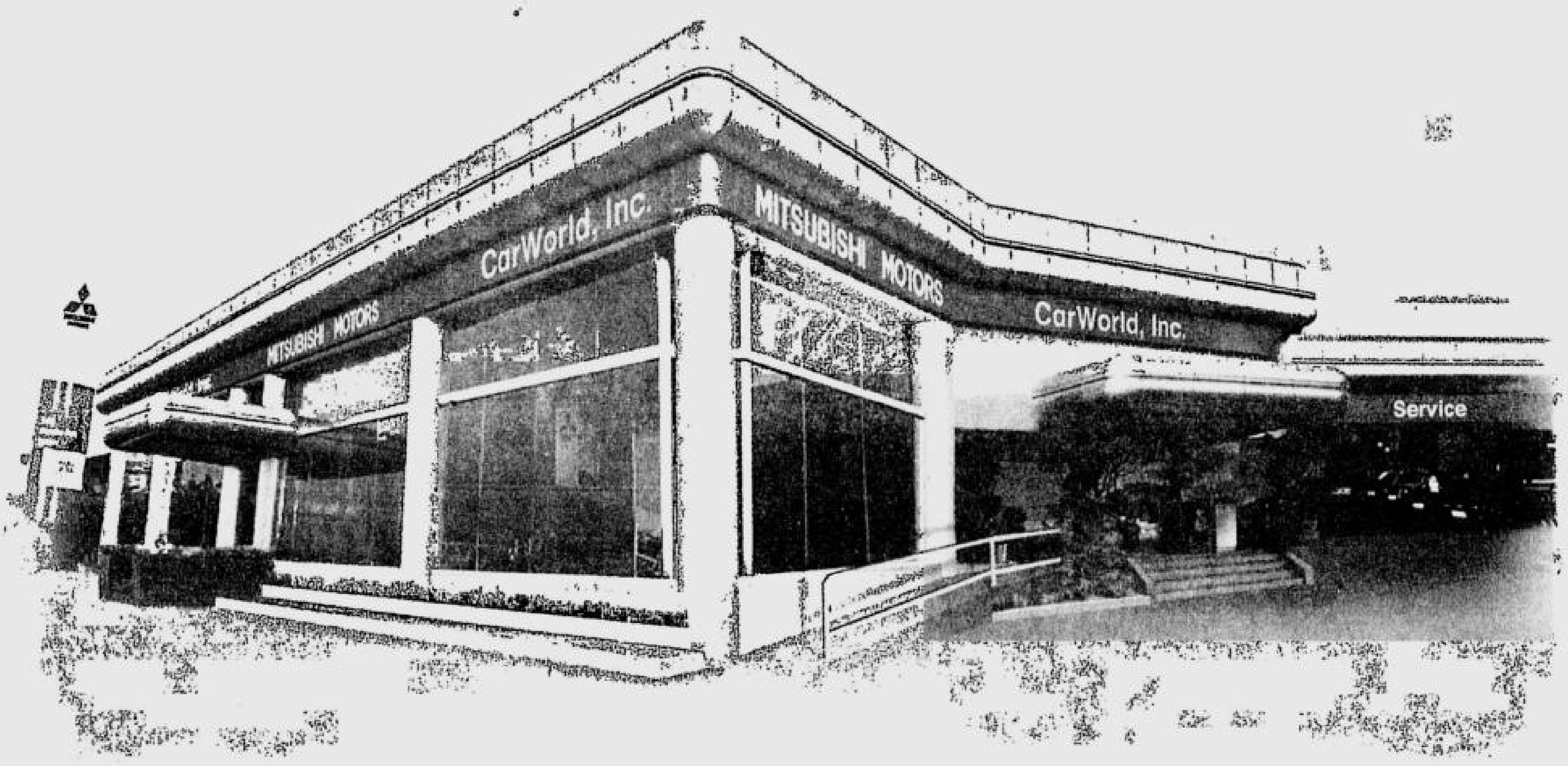
‘Our partnership with Mitsubishi Motors has been very fruitful,’ said Levy Laus, chairman and CEO of the LausGroup, which also owns the other Mitsubishi car dealerships in Malolos and Marilao in Bulacan, Tarlac City and Olongapo City.

‘Mitsubishi Motors has been very supportive to us and we’re happy with its products. The partnership has always been mutually beneficial. As Mitsubishi grows, we also grow,” said Laus.

Welcome to our New Showroom Facilities, San Fernando, Pampanga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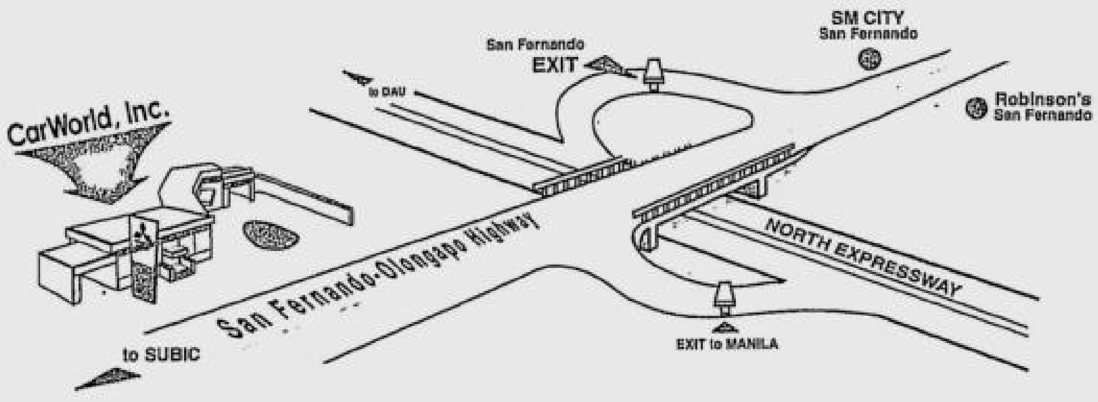
Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation congratulates CarWorld, Inc. on the opening of its New Showroom Facilities in San Fernando, Pampanga.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Locals find a home in CarWorld

From page E4

Back to his hometown

A BRIEF vacation to his hometown in Pampanga saw the immediate change of heart for Roland Juico, assistant vice president for parts and service operations of Carworld.

"I just wanted to take a relief from my job in Manila," Juico said. But he found himself applying for a job at Carworld after he saw an advertisement in a community newspaper.

Even with a pay cut, Juico chose to work at Carworld because it was nearer to his family.

"When I was working in Manila I could not even save a few pesos," he said. "But when I moved to Carworld, I was able to keep a few hundred pesos in the bank."

Juico started out with the accounting staff, having graduated in 1985 and worked briefly with United Coconut Planters Bank. But he somewhat served as a reliever to other employees as he knew how to do their jobs, too. "It helped me to learn how the whole system of the department worked," he said.

It took him only a year to be promoted to a higher position.

It has been 15 years since that fateful move. If, for some people, Manila is a haven, the countryside is the best place to work for this Pampangueño.

Juico knows the value of his job, that's why he always gives his best. "It's not just because this is my bread and butter, but also because I enjoy working here in the company."

For a "provincial" company like Carworld, it is sometimes amazing to know that it is ahead compared to its counterparts in Manila. The company constantly resorts to new innovations. It's main objective is to serve its customers better, and the management knows it too well.

"Because of the training we undergo, we become experts in our field," Juico said. "We are like doctors because we already know what's wrong with the car when the customer tells us what problems they are experiencing."

Aside from the training, Juico likes to read materials related to his job. "I always want to be ahead," he said.

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Excellent service keeps customers

CARWORLD Inc. isn't well known for being the leading car dealer in the northern part of the country for nothing. What makes it No. 1 are the customers who are not only happy for owning the car they want, but are also satisfied with the quality service being rendered to them.

Everyone is a customer, and each only wants the best service he or she can get. Carworld has built its reputation for being the store of choice among car dealers. Many customers are all praises for the quick attention the sales people and technicians give to them.

With not less than 30 cars bought at Carworld, Jose and May Manicdao never had any problem with Carworld.

"It is the after service that we are very happy about," said Jose, who had been an insurance agent since 1965. "With other companies," he added, they wouldn't care anymore after they have sold a unit to you."

But with Carworld, its people take the customers' problems seriously, and promptly act on their needs.

The Manicdaos are very particular with the models they use for their work—the reason they change units every so often. The very first unit they bought from Carworld was a Mitsubishi L300 van.

They also laud Carworld for being reasonable with the payment terms. "Maybe it is because they already trust us," May said.

Being a familiar sight and a regular customer at Carworld, Jose and May have forged friendships with most of the salespeople, technicians and mechanics.

"I believe the quick service of the mechanics does it for them," Jose said. "Even with a simple engine trouble, we are always greeted with a smile."

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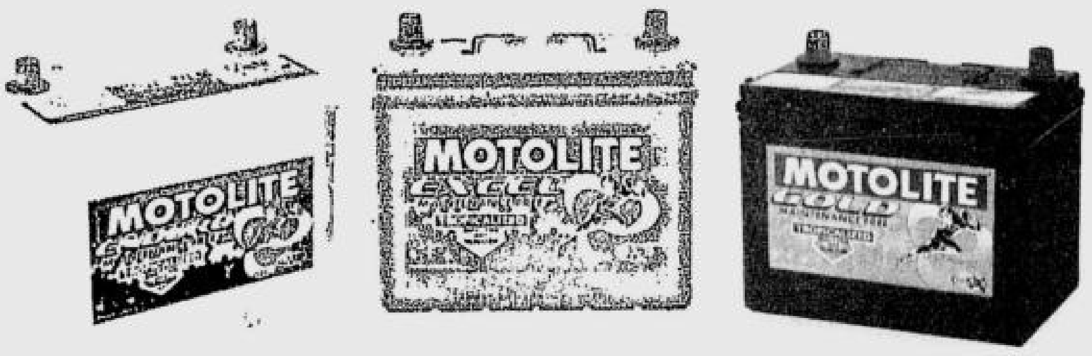

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Shigeharu Nakamura
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Excellent service keeps customers

From page E7

Their satisfaction extends to their three sons who each own a car, and all were bought from Carworld.

Because they are delighted with Carworld, the Manicdaos are not hesitant to refer the company to their friends. Just a few weeks ago, one of their friends bought a Mitsubishi Lancer from the dealership.

A hotel owner has been a regular client since 1983. Modesto Pano is almost like a member of the family to the employees of Carworld.

"I always get a warm reception from the salespeople," he said, "And they attend to my car's problems very promptly." This, he said is just one of the things customers enjoy when visiting the showroom in Pampanga.

What he likes most is that the people at Carworld are easy to deal with, "*Walang di pagkakasunduan*," he said.

Pano wants to commend, in particular, Donna Maglalay for assisting him with his billing problems at one point.

Alan Dungao has bought a record 41 units at Carworld. The cars are used as service vehicles for his appliance business in San Fernando. He owns an Adventure for his personal use.

Dungao has no fear of a long disruption in his business if one of the vehicles breaks down. "What's good about Carworld is the availability of parts," he said. He drops by the repair center every now and then to have the vehicles checked. And so far, Dungao has been getting a very warm reception from the Carworld people.

Yolanda Nuguid has two cars bought from Carworld. The first, an L300, is used for her meat processing business. A recently acquired Mitsubishi Adventure is used to get around the city for her whole family.

"It's been six years since we bought our first car," Nuguid said, "And we never had any major problem with it."

The value of customers should never be taken for granted. One happy customer is equivalent to more than twice as much when word spreads of the quality service given to them.

Such discipline also reaps its own rewards. Carworld has been a consistent national team champion in the Mitsubishi Service Plus Olympics held annually. It was the national champion in 1999, 2001 and 2002, and has won the Best Technician Award for six consecutive times, since 1997. *Marlet D. Salazar*

Genuine Quality

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The trend for financial institutions and large corporations, especially those with numerous branches and subsidiary offices all over the country, is to employ more advanced communication and data network systems that link all parts together. These systems are normally centralized and are highly dependent on the host, usually housed in the main office. And as a company's operations become increasingly dependent on its center, it becomes increasingly important to have a backup center to hold the network together, should anything happen to disable the main center or host.

Take for instance, the examples of East West Bank and Petron Corporation.

Petron Corporation is the Philippines' leading oil refining and marketing company. Today, it supplies more than one-third of the country's oil requirements. Aside from its retail customers, it also supplies its clients in power generation, construction, manufacturing, airlines and carriers.

Petron has more than 1,100 stations and 34 bulk plants all over the country which serve as distribution centers. In a business of such geographical magnitude and scope, network communication performs a key role for the company's many parts to function as a whole. Mr. Lucio Batugal, Business System Support Manager, and Mr. Manny Bautista, Manager for Network Operations, are tasked to provide solutions to enable business communication. One of these solutions is the company's use of a sophisticated integrated software for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) application. This software allows users from any of the Petron offices including the main headquarters in Makati to the different depots to perform key processes in real time such as order and billing, management inventory, credit checking and tracking, and financial postings.

But a fantastic software is only as good as the network it runs within. So who do Mr. Batugal and Mr. Bautista call to provide them with the links that connect the main office to all branches and stations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? PLDT Brains. It is the key that provides the infrastructure which is crucial to the company's operations.

And for the protection of this all-important, all-encompassing communication network, backup plans are very critical, if loss of connections are to be avoided. "Any disruption in communication is a disruption in operations," states Mr. Batugal. No wonder he and Mr. Bautista are so vigilant about redundancy systems. "We have to keep it (operations) running," Mr. Batugal adds.

With the importance of having a backup system, Petron recently acquired a Disaster Recovery Site (DRS). Once again, they called upon PLDT Brains to provide them with its Continuum service. In a single phone call, Petron network can now connect to its backup hosts (DRS). The service was implemented late last year, and was tested through a mock disaster drill conducted in January. The DRS was up and running again in an hour and thirty minutes after the phone in command.

"We don't like these things [disasters] to happen, but it's better that you are prepared for it," Mr. Batugal asserts. "Any downtime is a loss of potential business, that is why Brains Continuum plays a vital role in our firm."

> **"You don't like these things [disasters] to happen, but it's better that you are prepared for it. Any downtime is a loss of potential business, that is why Brains Continuum plays a vital role in our firm."** --Mr. Lucio Batugal, Business System Support Manager, Petron Corporation

Business should be a matter of life, not death.

> **"Ultimately, it translates to better customer service. Because come rain or come shine, come hell or high water, East West Bank can be trusted to be there for its customer- we and PLDT Brains Continuum made sure of that."**--Mr. Ricky Cruz, Head, Network Management Department, East West Bank

East West Bank's investments in technology have given it the competitive advantage, and has helped propel it to become a commercial bank to contend with. It has become a leading provider of state-of-the-art banking services, with 50 branches in Metro Manila and key provincial cities.

The Head of East West Bank's Network Management Department, Mr. Ricky Cruz, is the guy in charge of harnessing the great powers of technology toward the efficient delivery of bank products and services to bank's customers. In 2001, he enlisted the assistance of PLDT Brains in building the vast communications infrastructure that integrates all the branches, and all auxiliary applications like ATM, internet and phone banking, connecting them all to the data center at the bank's main office.

It is also Mr. Cruz's responsibility to ensure availability of the host computer and the connections that East West customers and employees now rely on utterly. And especially with the Bangko Sentral's directive that all banks come up with comprehensive Disaster Recovery Plans should anything happen to disrupt Philippine banking operations, to ensure timely resumption to normal operations.

PLDT Brains' new service, Brains Continuum, was quick to help fulfill this need. It provided support and backup to Mr. Cruz's department as they set up a Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) that ensures that bank's entire operations will continue despite any catastrophe that may befall the main office. With PLDT Brains' Continuum, everything that is connected to the main server, every account updated and transaction recorded, are all duplicated in the Disaster Recovery Site (DRS), making it a mirror image of the host.

Mr. Cruz comments, "It makes life easier." Because should any disruption occur, the DRS shall be always ready to take the place of the host server. And it shall be with the least discomfort to East West clients, because all accounts will have been updated and all records current.

"Ultimately, it translates to better customer service," Mr. Cruz concludes. Because come rain or come shine, come hell or high water, East West Bank can be trusted to be there for its customer- he and PLDT Brains Continuum made sure of that.

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ROAD TALK

FIRST DRIVE

Sibling rivalry

Text and photos by Dino Ray V. Directo III

IF YOU are not an avid fan of Sony Play Station's Gran Turismo or the World Rally Championship (WRC) series, the name Lancer Evolution does not ring a bell. Heaven help us if you think that the evolution we are about to discuss here has something to do with Darwin's theories.

Now on its eighth recreation, the Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution was first launched in October 1992 to satisfy the stringent requirements of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) World Rally Championship series.

For more than a decade, the Evolution underwent a series of transformations, with each recreation becoming more potent and desirable in terms of overall performance. The Evolution V to VI was so successful it dominated the WRC for many years. If Ferrari is to F1, then the demanding terrain of the WRC is the bastion of the Evolution.

Only in my dreams

Recently, this writer was provided with an opportunity to test ride and drive the Lancer Evolution VIII. Thanks to the "boys from outside the Laguna Technopark", this writer spent a few precious hours with Mitsubishi's iconic Evolution.

The first thing that came to my mind upon seeing it up close, side by side with its utilitarian sibling, the Lancer MX, was that the Evolution VIII was just an ordinary Lancer on steroids. Both cars shared the same platform and exterior design.

"It can't be the same," argued Arlan Reyes, Mitsubishi's marketing man.

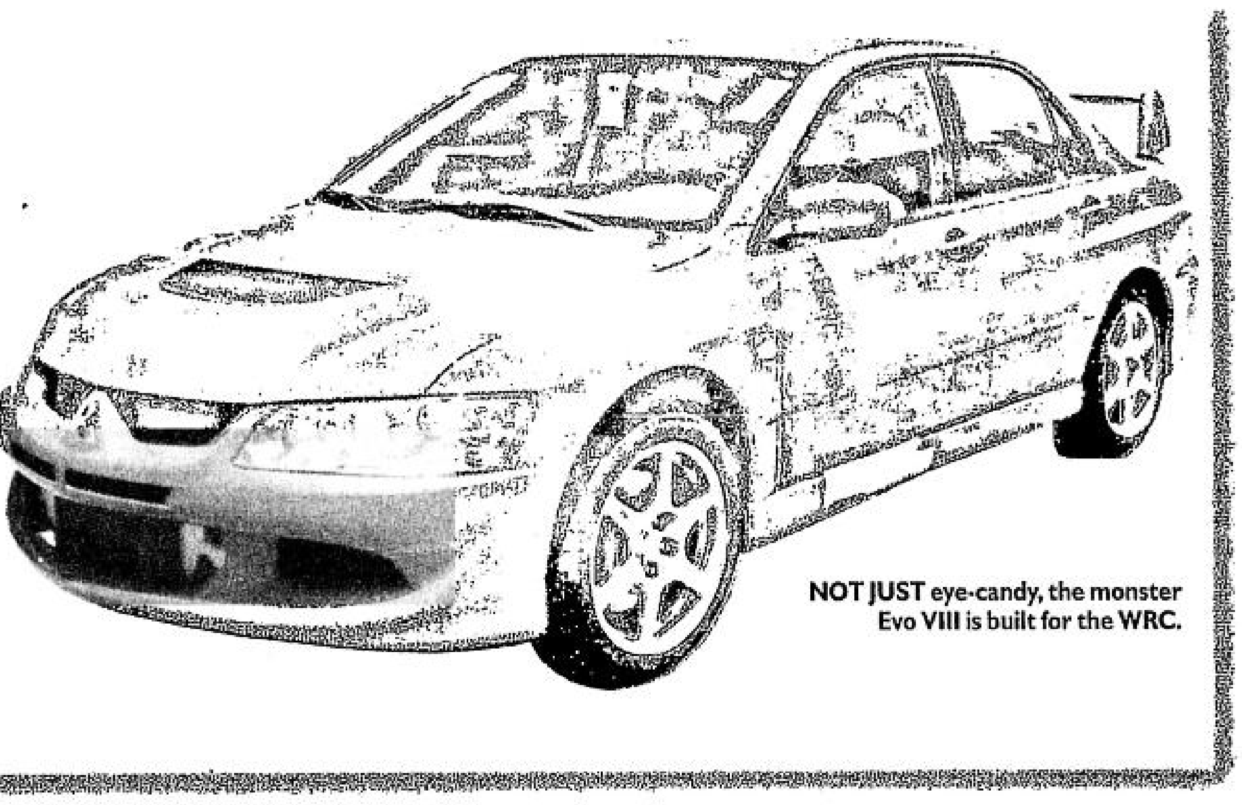
However, the concept of being the same totally changed when I got behind the wheel of this mechanical beast. One flick of the start key and the subtle roar of the 4G63 I-4 DOHC turbo-intercooled engine was enough to silence my doubts about the car's ability.

> One flick of the start key and the subtle roar of the 4G63 I-4 DOHC turbo-intercooled engine was enough to silence my doubts about the car's ability

The dashboard instrumentation was simple, no fancy buttons or go-fast triggers. The gauge clusters were big and easy to read.

The indications that this car was not a

SIBLING RIVALRY/F4



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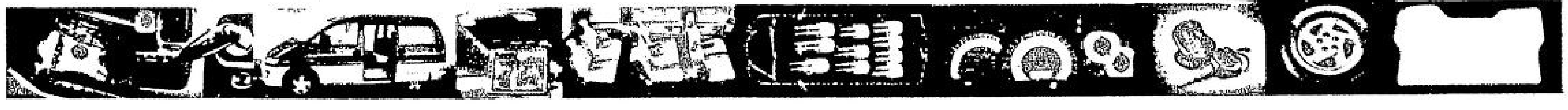

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It's not too late. Individual or fleet buyers of the Civic may avail themselves of Honda's very own and most comprehensive insurance coverage, for free. What's more, great freebies await buyers at all Honda dealerships nationwide.

The Honda Value Insurance Program (VIP) is a premium car insurance coverage that goes well beyond just that. Among the value-added services offered with the Honda VIP include comprehensive 24-hour roadside assistance, towing assistance, mechanic referral and minor roadside repairs, hotel accommodation assistance, alternative travel assistance and cost, removal of vehicle with the use of a crane, all for free (subject to minimum coverage/reimbursements). Customers are assured of quality, as only Honda's highly skilled service technicians will handle their vehicles and Honda genuine parts will be used for all repairs. Fast approval is also guaranteed for claims of up to P50,000 worth.

All Honda dealerships nationwide now exclusively offer the Value Insurance Program with two participating insurance companies, BPI/MS Insurance Company (joint venture of Bank of the Philippine Islands and Mitsumi Sumitomo Insurance) and Malayan Insurance Company (a member of the Yuchengco Group of Companies).

Now even more eye-catching, the Civic comes with a sporty styling and class-leading innovative features. Plus, all variants now come with the exclusive "wave key", a difficult-to-copy key for that added safety and security. Still in the heart of the Civic VTi/VTi-S is the revolutionary Honda VTEC Technology. Balanced power and superior performance with excellent fuel efficiency is made possible with the Civic's 3-stage VTEC (VTEC3) engine. Capable of producing 130ps of power at 6,600rpm and a more stable torque output at 2000-5000rpm, the Civic's powerplant offers a spirited driving response while achieving minimum levels of fuel consumption.

The Civic is available in 1.5 LXi MT or AT, 1.6 VTi MT or AT and 1.6 VTi-S MT or AT. New and exciting colors for the Civic are Red Rock Pearl, Silverstone Metallic and Aqua Green, in addition to the popular Dark Emerald Green, Tafetta White and Zircon Blue. Exclusive colors include Circuit Blue for the 1.6 VTi and Night Hawk Black for the VTi-S.

Get to your nearest Honda dealer now for that "VIP" treatment you deserve. For more information, log on to www.hondaphil.com.

MEMBERS of the BMW Z Club meet at Rockwell prior to the shoot of a segment for RPN 9's 'Auto Extreme' TV show. In the foreground are the members of the BMW Z Club Philippines and the Z1 roadster, which was introduced in 1987 and the latest Z roadster, the Z4, launched April 2003.

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Maximum Madness From July 16-22 Only!
Drive Home A Sentra Or Serena With Our Hottest Rates & Deals Ever!

As low as 8.31%
For [illegible] Months

For the first time, Nissan Motor Philippines, Inc. and BPI Family Savings Bank, Inc. join forces to give you our finest deals ever! Drive home a Nissan Sentra or Serena via our best and most generous financing terms! The madness continues until the end of the month, so hurry to your Nissan dealer today before we come to our senses!

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	DP%	1.3 A/T	LS M/T	Serena A/T
Sugg. Retail Price		620,000	770,000	1,215,000
Grand Total Savings	15%	91,558	137,353	173,958
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	30%	79,116	121,842	149,548
	35%	74,910	116,692	141,391
	40%	70,762	111,541	133,235

*** Vis-à-vis regular rates; based on 60-month term. Inclusive of FREE 1st year comprehensive insurance and FREE Chattel Mortgage.

HAPPY FAMILY AUTO LOAN

Incredible Holidays
Promo good from July 15-Sep. 30, 2003
See posters and flyers for details.
Approved loans of P 450,000 and above come with a premium vacation package!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2952, series of 2003

Treat FOR REPEAT
Promo good from July 16-Dec. 31, 2003
See posters and flyers for details.
BPI Family Savings Bank, Inc. auto loan clients who avail of another auto loan get an instant reward!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2950, series of 2003

* Add-on rate. All Plans subject to BPI Family Savings Bank, Inc. approval.
** Up to 24 months; 40-50% D/P. Special deals available for cash buyers.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2976, series of 2003

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Nissan's triple safety initiative

CUSTOMER safety and satisfaction is a prime concern of Universal Motors Corp. and its principal, Nissan Motor Company Limited Japan. After all, the average daily transport carries a lot more than your usual cargo, but the people you care about as well.

With muscles made of steel, powertrains designed to produce unrivaled might, innovations that provide uncompromising handling and bodies created to withstand the roughest terrain and climate, UMC's full range of Nissan Light Commercial and Recreational Vehicles provide more than just a means of transport but vehicles that are guaranteed to stand and deliver.

The robust Nissan Frontier 2003, the stately Urvan Estate CEO and the intimidating Patrol, are all made from the same mold of quality, durability and safety that has been recognized for years.

At the core of these models' notable safety offer is Nissan's Triple Safety Initiative. This assures that the Nissan LCVs and RVs you drive bring nothing but utmost convenience and peace of mind. The Triple Safety Initiative is composed of three main features that cover every aspect of safe driving: Information Safety, Control Safety and Impact Safety.

Information safety

Drivers mainly rely on visual acuity to assess, act and react to various road situations. To ensure the continuous and unobstructed flow of visual information, Information Safety features are provided in each Nissan LCV and RV. Each unit is dressed with powerful halogen lamps (for the Nissan Patrol, Urvan Estate, Urvan Escapade and Shuttle) or multi-reflector lamps (for the Frontier 2003) for maximum visibility. Map lights are also outfitted in specific units as an added feature. The Nissan Frontier is also tailored with white meter gauges for optimal visibility while off-roading.

Control safety

Total vehicle control is also guaranteed with the Control Safety mechanism in each unit-the Load Sensing Valve (LSV). This detects the total load and weight distribution in the vehicle and ensures optimal brake pressure on all front and rear wheels for safe stops. Easy-to-reach power controls like power windows, locks, mirrors, doors and power assist steering with tilt adjustment completes the total package.

Impact safety

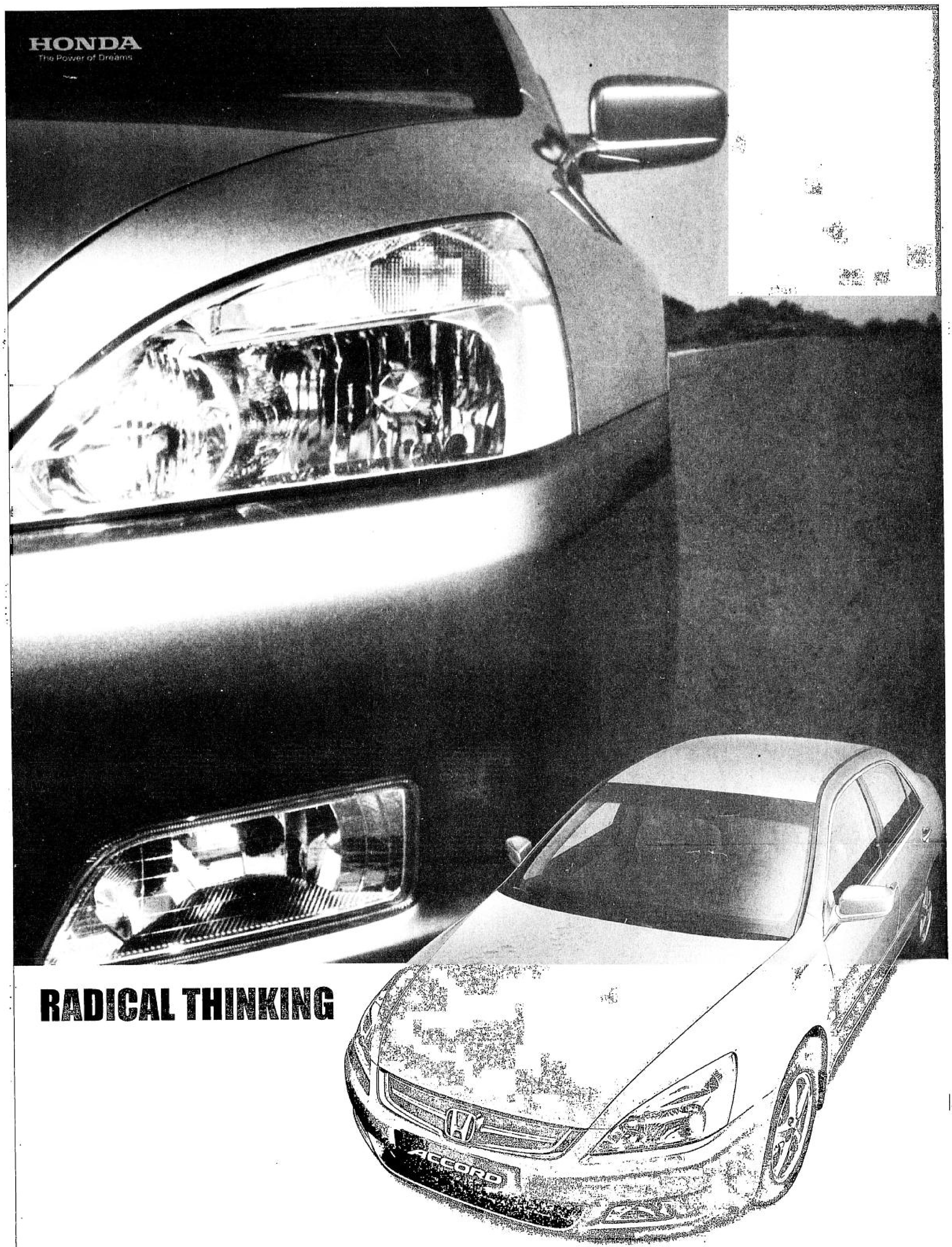
Various impact safety apparatus are engineered into Nissan LCVs and RVs to reduce the risk of injury in the event of an accident and minimize the possibility of secondary or aggravated injury. The Frontier, Urvan Estate and Patrol are designed with the Nissan Zone Body Concept. The sturdy, impact absorbing, front crushable zone diffuses the force incurred from possible frontal collisions. While the rigid cabin preserves leg room and allows the doors to be opened for a swift exit. The Nissan Patrol, Frontier and Urvan Estate are also fitted out bold impact features like side door guard beams that provide extra protection from side impacts, a safety restraint system and a driver side airbag (for the Nissan Patrol and Frontier). Units are also furnished with a no-lock-out door lock system and a child safety lock.

With all these in mind, isn't it comforting to know that the Nissan Patrol, Frontier, Urvan Estate, Urvan Escapade and Shuttle you steer can take you through more than just your usual daily grind?

UMC is the authorized distributor and assembler of Nissan Light Commercial Vehicles and Recreational Vehicles.

Jama rep presents auto industry publication

HIROYUKI Nakamura, chief representative of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (Jama), was recently in Manila to present Jama's latest publication titled Hand-in-Hand-Partnership in Auto Industry Between Asean and Japan. The 16-page publication provides comprehensive and detailed information on the activities of Japanese automakers and their subsidiaries in building partnerships with local manufacturers in the development of the Asean region's auto industry. Jama has been instrumental in promoting the growth of the Asean auto industry by transferring technologies in production, process control and quality improvement.



RADICAL THINKING

Getting ahead usually means thinking a bit out of line, out of the box. That's how you arrive at innovations like driving performance in the comfort of a sedan. From the aerodynamically sleek styling to the quiet power of the i-VTEC engine, the Honda Accord has it all - power, handling, response and comfort. Enhanced by 5-speed automatic transmission. Protected by dual SRS and side airbags.

The new Honda Accord is for you, if you believe in breaking the rules when you have to.

All-New
ACCORD

HONDA

For details, call or visit any of the following Honda dealerships nationwide.

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Honda Cars Alabang Tel. Nos.: 807-7704, 807-7978; 809-4590 Fax: 809-5052
Honda Cars Quezon City, Inc. Tel. Nos.: 712-6850 to 61 Fax: 732-8550
Honda Cars Shaw Tel. Nos. 717-1681 to 85 Fax: 725-7673
Honda Cars Manila Tel. Nos.: 338-4225 Fax: 562-4548 loc. 130

Honda Cars Fairview Tel. Nos.: 935-2020 Fax: 930-2845
Honda Cars Marikina Tel. Nos. 942-3561, 998-1462 Fax: 998-1794
Honda Cars Pangasinan Tel. Nos.: (075) 522-1488 to 89 Fax: (075) 522-1490
Honda Cars Cebu, Inc. Tel. Nos.: (032) 231-3502 to 08 Fax: (032) 231-4488
Honda Cars San Pablo, Inc. Tel. Nos.: (049) 562-7713 to 14 Fax: (049) 562-7712
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Honda Cars Gen. Santos, Inc. Tel. Nos.: (083) 553-9797, (083) 301-3108 Fax: (083) 301-3109

www.hondaphil.com

Shanghai eyes own motor racing team

SHANGHAI—China's booming financial hub of Shanghai is looking to boost its international image with the launch of its own motor racing team, which the city hopes will eventually compete on the high-octane Formula One circuit.

Guangdong-based auto racing team Formula Racing Development on Thursday agreed to move its operations up to Shanghai, with an eye to eventually launching China's first Formula One team.

The team will race as Shangsai FRD, *shangsai* being the Chinese acronym for Shanghai International Circuit.

"China will not only host its own Formula One race, it will eventually have its own F1 racers and team," Yu Zhifei, deputy general manager of Shanghai International Circuit said in a statement.

"Shangsai FRD is the first step towards that goal."

Shangsai currently competes in the Asian Formula Renault Challenge and Formula Campus. State media said the team was set up in 1997 with an initial investment of HK$20 million ($2.6 million) but made no mention of the price involved in the move.

Shanghai, China's richest city and bustling financial hub, has begun work on a 5.45-km race track and will host a Formula One event in 2004 once it is complete.

China hopes the 2 billion yuan ($241.7 million) circuit—designed by German racetrack engineer Hermann Tilke, who was also responsible for the acclaimed Sepang track in Malaysia—will attract more attention to the high-speed sport.

City officials are pinning their hopes on the Shanghai Grand Prix, which will join a series of high-profile events the country is hosting, with Shanghai holding the World Expo in 2010 and Beijing the 2008 Olympics plus this year's ATP Tennis Masters.

The Shanghai circuit, designed to look like the Chinese character *shang*, meaning "to rise", is due for completion in March 2004. It will hold 200,000 spectators and include a theme park.

China and Bahrain are due to host races for the first time next year. Japan and Malaysia are the other two Asian countries that are part of the Formula One world championship circuit. *Reuters*

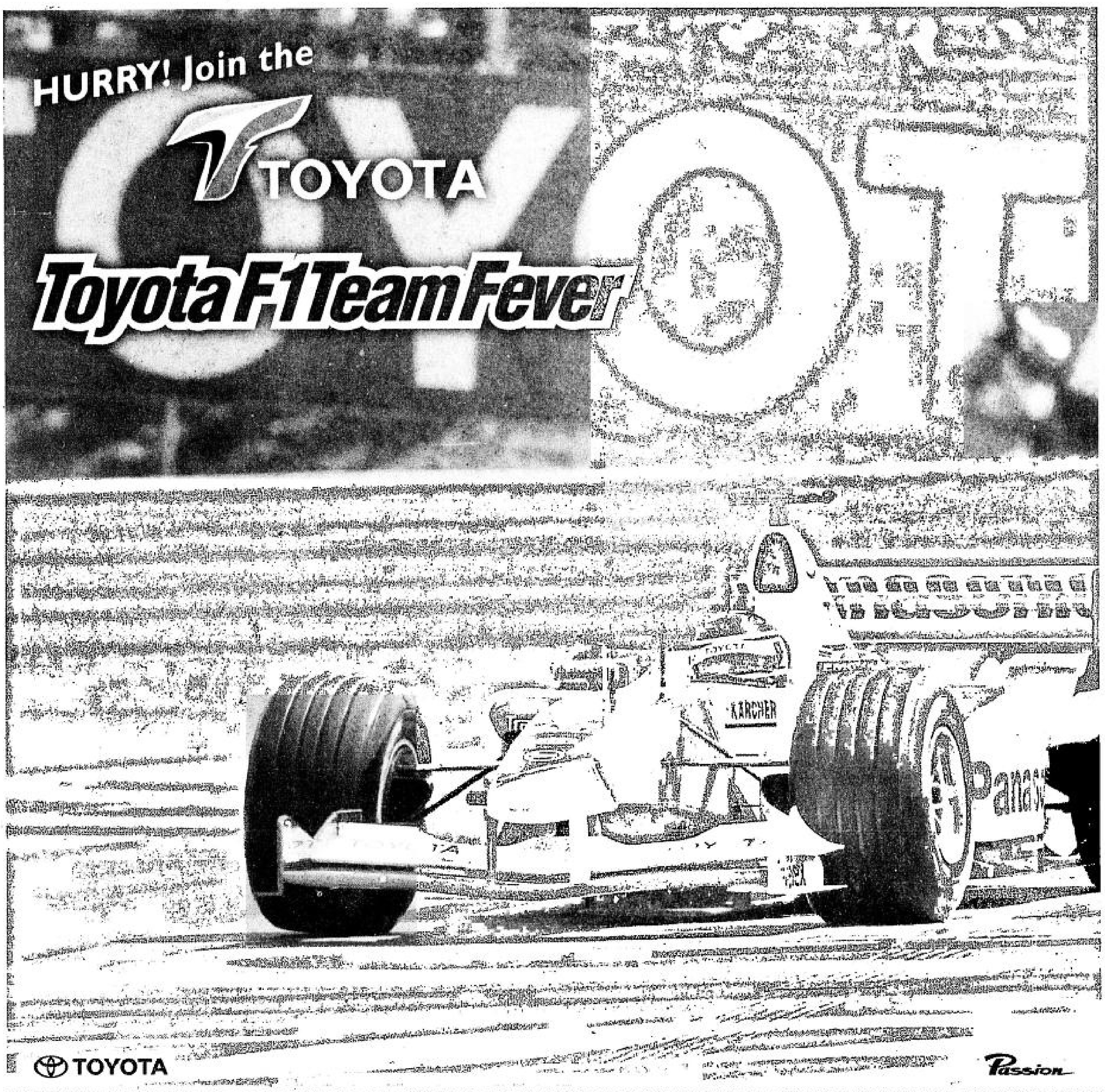
Honda sets new look with f-Civic

HONDA Cars Philippines Inc. introduces a new refreshing look to its Civic line-up, the snazzy f-Civic. Catering to the distinct tastes of car buyers, two new exclusive colors, Savannah Green and Mulberry Pink are added, brightening up the Civic array. Another exclusive is the all-new 15" alloy wheel, especially designed for the f-Civic.

A new seat material design complements the fresh new look of the f-Civic. New features have also been included for heightened convenience. Now, car clutter can be organized with a tray located under the front passenger seat. A Tire Pressure Monitoring System has been integrated in the dashboard's driver side for safety as well.

Encased in the '03 Civic body, the f-Civic is powered by a 1.5-liter, 16-valve PGM-FI (Programmed Fuel Injection) engine in 5-speed Manual and 4-speed Automatic Transmissions. The f-Civic is priced at P735,000 for the 1.5 Manual Transmission and P765,000 for the Automatic Transmission.

The f-Civic is a limited offering only. So hurry, get to your nearest Honda dealer now. For more information, log on to www.hondaphil.com.



Avail of genuine Toyota or Thunder service at Toyota dealers And get a chance to win a Toyota F1 Team Remote Control Car every week, a 107 1M (42") Panasonic Plasma TV and loads of other prizes that feed your need for speed in the grand draw.

PROMO MECHANICS

Requirements:

Parts Counter Sales

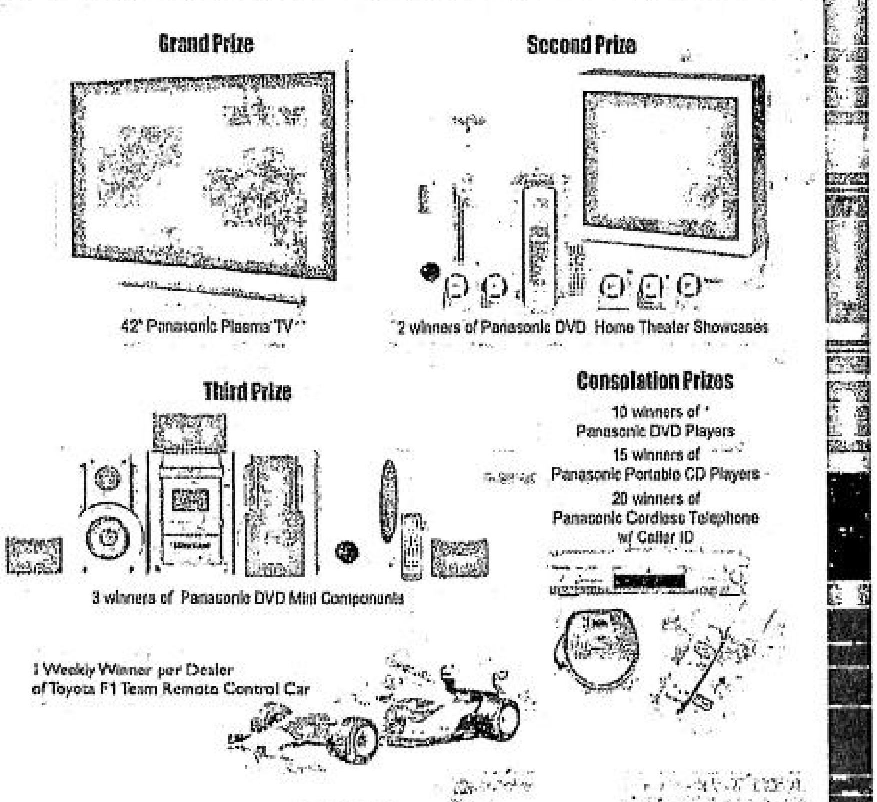
For a minimum purchase of ₱3,000 (net of discount), single receipt, for any of the following, customer gets one (1) raffle coupon:
- Toyota Genuine Spare Parts
- Toyota Genuine Chemicals
- Toyota Genuine Accessories
- Toyota Dealer's Parts Sold Tires

Services Sales

For every ₱500 worth availment, single receipt, for any of the following general job services, customer gets one (1) raffle coupon:
- Toyota Genuine Service
  (i.e. Periodic Maintenance and repair)
- Thunder Service or combination of other services
- Tire Change / Alignment or Balancing

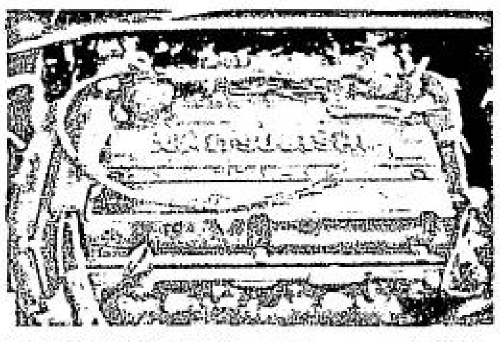
For a minimum of ₱15,000 worth availment, single receipt, for body & paint service, customer gets one (1) raffle coupon for every ₱5,000, i.e. customer gets 3 coupons for the ₱15,000.

Promo Period: July 7 - October 4, 2003
Grand Draw is on October 10, 2003


Grand Prize
42" Panasonic Plasma TV
Second Prize
2 winners of Panasonic DVD Home Theater Showcases
Third Prize
3 winners of Panasonic DVD Mini Components
Consolation Prizes
10 winners of Panasonic DVD Players
15 winners of Panasonic Portable CD Players
20 winners of Panasonic Cordless Telephone w/ Caller ID
1 Weekly Winner per Dealer of Toyota F1 Team Remote Control Car

Panasonic TOYOTA Racing
Toyota F1 Team Fever

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2650, Series of 2003.



THE POWERPLANT is able to generate 270 horses. Modified, it can yield nearly twice more

Sibling rivalry

From page F1

"Mom mobile" were the leather wrapped Momo steering wheel and the body-hugging Recaro bucket seats.

"Then again, the dashboard layout really bares a striking resemblance to the Lancer MX," this writer said in jest.

"Just floor the accelerator and feel for yourself," dared Arlan.

Being the type that didn't back down on a dare, I floored the gas pedal and the grippy Yokohama Advan AO46 tires screeched in anger. In a matter of seconds, five to be exact, the scenery became a blur as the Evolution surged forward like a projectile. Once the tachometer hit 2,500 rpms, the turbo kicked in and the car was propelled into hyperspace.

BODY-hugging Recaro seats

For a fleeting moment, I really feared that we would go into a time warp and travel back in time.

The 4G63 powerplant revved viscously, due to the lightweight valvetrain and the 19 psi of boost provided by the lag-reducing twin scroll supercharger. Fortifying the engine's bottom end were the connecting rods, steel crankshaft and aluminum pistons. Did I mention that the engine was also equipped with gun-drilled camshafts and hallow stem exhaust valves for more power?

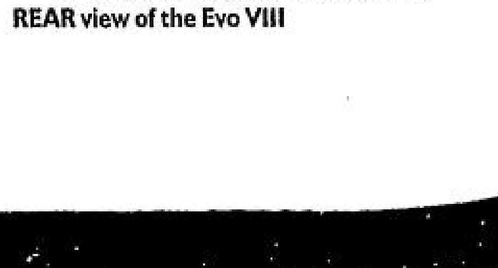
YOKOHAMA Advan AO46 tires, and race-bred Brembo disc brakes

This bone stock electric blue Evolution VIII boasts of only 271 horses on tap. Take note of the "only", because further modifications to the exhaust system, computer box, and intake system could further increase the hp of this Kansai beast to 400, even 500.

Like the ones you see on the WRC, the Evolution VIII being sold in select Mitsubishi dealers in Metro Manila are race ready. The body has been reinforced and the torsional rigidity improved to increase the level of safety. Aside from the hood, the suspension system is made from aluminum, thereby drastically reducing weight. Harnessing the power and torque of the Evolution VIII are race-bred Brembo disc brakes up front and rear. They are managed by a standard sports ABS system with Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBFD).

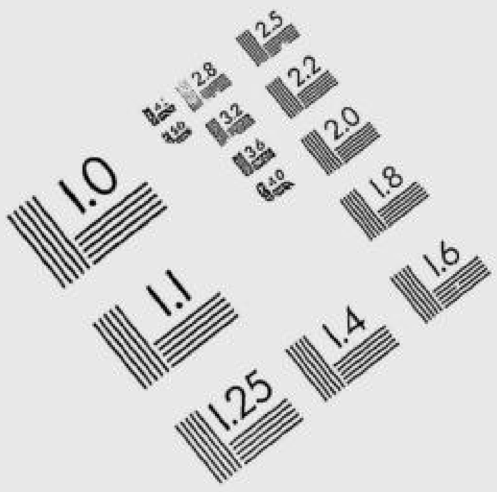
BROTHER on steroids? The Lancer MX, right, side by side with the Evo VIII.

As we drove back to the plant, Arlan and I found ourselves singing "Its my life" by Jon Bon Jovi. Now, if somebody would be generous enough to lend me P2.9 million so I can buy this dream machine. Well, that's another story.



REAR view of the Evo VIII

IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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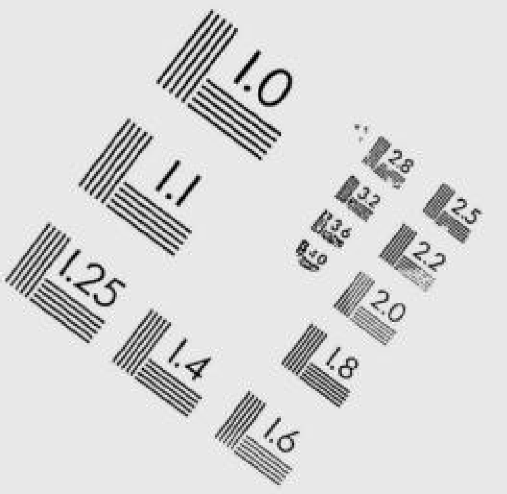
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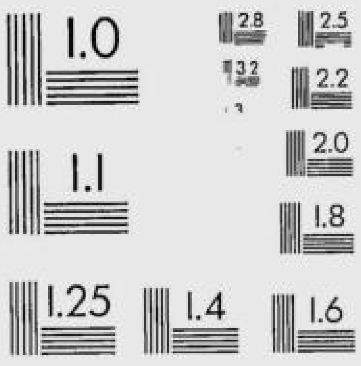
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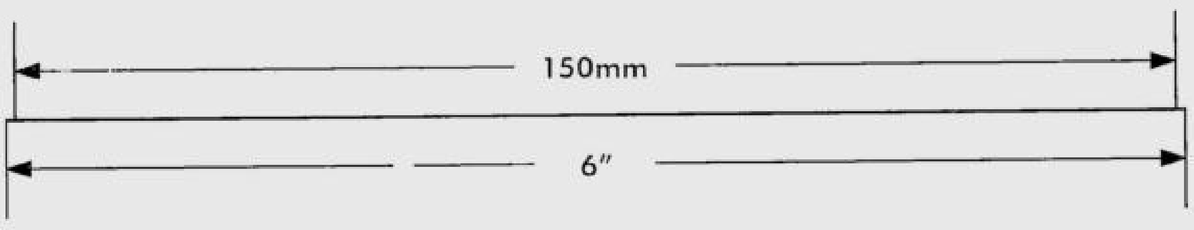

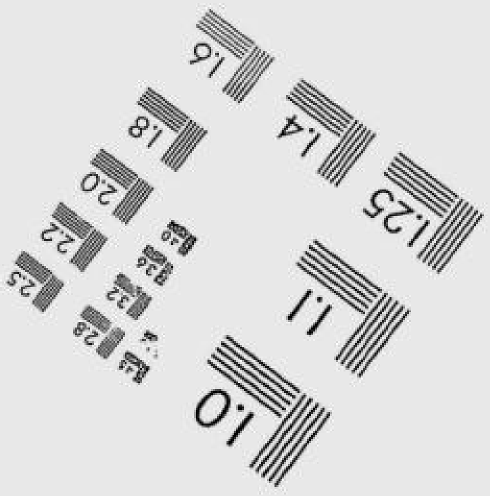
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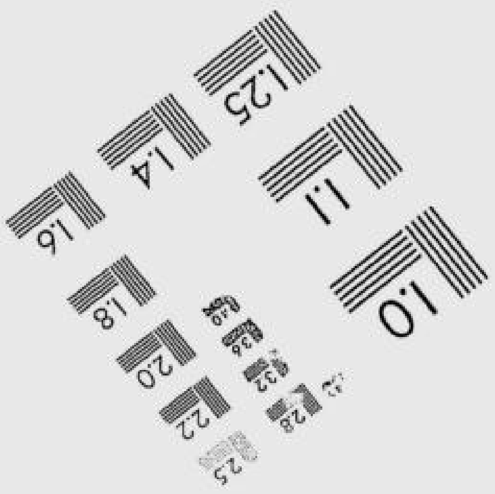
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